DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 239 626 IR 050 592

TITLE	Opening Statements and Speeches. Plenary Session. Papers.
INSTITUTION	International Federation of Library Associations, The Hague (Netherlands).
PUB DATE	Aug 83
NOTE	137p.; Papers presented at the Annual Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations (49th, Munich, West Germany, August 21-27, 1983). For other papers presented at this conference, see IR 050 593-601.
PUB TYPE	Viewpoints (120) -- Reports - Descriptive (141) -- Speeches/Conference Papers (150)
LANGUAGE	English; French
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC06 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Academic Libraries; *Computers; Developing Nations; Foreign Countries; Global Approach; Information Science; *International Organizations; Library Associations; Library Automation; Library Role; Public Libraries; *Technological Advancement; *Telecommunications
IDENTIFIERS	*Information Technology; Information Transfer; Scientific and Technical Information; Universal Availability of Publications; USSR

ABSTRACT

Official opening statements, organizational reports, and papers on libraries in a technological world, which were presented at the 1983 International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) conference include: (1) welcoming addresses by Franz Georg Kaltwasser and Mathilde Berghofer-Weichner, (2) opening speeches by Else Granheim (IFLA president) and Jacques Tocatlian (UNESCO representative); (3) a financial report by M.-L. Bossuat (IFLA treasurer); (4) a report by the Secretary General on 1981-82 trends in IFLA programs, activities, support, and finances; (5) a progress report from the IFLA International Office for UAP (Universal Availability of Publications) by M. B. Line and S. Vickers; (6) a report by Edward Huck Tee Lim on the UNESCO/IFLA pre-session seminar on "University Libraries in Developing Countries--Structure and Function in Regard to Information Transfer for Science and Technology"; (7) "The Significance of Information Science for the Theory and Practice of Librarianship" by Thomas J. Galvin (United States); (8) "Problemes et Questions de l'Usager face aux Bibliotheques dans un Monde 'Technicise'" (Problems and Questions in the Usage of Libraries in a Technological World) by W. Knopp (West Germany--paper in French); (9) "From the Well to the Tap," in which Denis Varloot (France) discusses future impacts of technology on libraries, librarians, and the production, storage, and consumption of information; (10) "Activities of Libraries in the Developed Socialist Society in the Meeting of Readers' Needs in Conditions of Scientific and Technical Progress" by N. S. Kartashov (USSR); and (11) reports from sections and round tables belonging to the IFLA Division on Libraries Serving the General Public. (ESR)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION
CENTER (ERIC)

This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official NIE position or policy.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS
General Conference, Munich, West Germany, August 21-27, 1983
Opening Statements and Speeches, Plenary Session. Papers.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

IFLA

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

IFLA 1983

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE MUNICH 1983

Official Opening

131-PLE-10-E

Welcoming Address

Franz Georg Kaltwasser
Chairman of the Organizing Committee
Bayerische Staatsbibliothek
Munich, Federal Republic of Germany

For internal use only:

to be brought to meeting no:

.....75.....

Remarks: si

to be presented orally ☒

for distribution only ☐

Madam President; Madam Staatssekretärin; ladies and gentlemen; dear friends!

In Manila in 1980, in Leipzig in 1981 and in Montreal in 1982 I had the honor of inviting you to the 49th meeting of the IFLA which takes place in Munich this year. You have accepted this invitation in great numbers. May I then, dear colleagues, who have arrived here in Munich from over 60 different countries from all over the world, welcome you, together with our president, Mrs. Else Granheim, with the following words: welcome to Munich.

We, that is, my colleagues of the Munich libraries, have together with cpm (Congress Project Management, Frankfurt/Main) tried our best to prepare the congress in such a manner that the work in the various sections can be carried out successfully. Moreover, we have taken great pains to make your stay in Munich as pleasant as possible. In this connection I would also like to gratefully acknowledge the pertinent and friendly cooperation of the IFLA headquarters, Mrs. Margreet Wijnstroom and Mr. van Wesemael and their staff.

This congress is subsidized by the state of Bavaria, the city of Munich, and the German Research Society (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft). We organized it with the understanding of the IFLA national committee of the Federal Republic of Germany. I am delighted that the state of Bavaria and the city of Munich have shown, above and beyond their financial and other types of support, their recognition of the importance of the IFLA congress with the words of welcome given by their representatives. Let me, in the name of the IFLA congress, greet most warmly the representative for the state of Bavaria, Staatssekretärin Berghofer-Weichner, and the representative for the city of Munich, Bürgermeister Gittel. May I also extend a warm welcome to the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, Ministerialdirektor Dr. Giese from the Bundesministerium für Bildung und Wissenschaft (Federal Ministry for Education and Scholarship).

...

Dear colleagues, the IFLA is meeting for the second time in Munich. In 1956, 68 librarians from 21 countries got together in this city for the 22nd IFLA congress. Today 1200 participants have assembled here: for each participant in 1956, there are 17 today. In these figures we can see not just the mobility of modern society, but also the expansion of the IFLA into all parts of the world. They show the harmonious international cooperation of our professions which extends beyond the national and ideological borders of this world.

The significance of this international cooperation will certainly also be evident in the congress' theme "Libraries in a technological world", that is, in a world whose technology is revolutionizing the dissemination of information, and therefore putting libraries into the centre of a new development.

Those more competent than I will speak on this theme. However, I would like to give you this piece of advice: if the topic becomes too abstract or futuristic, then go to the Bavarian State Library and take a look at the beautiful manuscripts and books which we have put on exhibit in honor of the 425th anniversary of our library. You should do this in order to remember where our profession has its origins, namely in the book. Among many other treasures, you will find there a manuscript of a Mozart symphony which will be played at the end of this opening ceremony. The missing symphony was discovered in 1980 and acquired by the Bavarian State Library.

Dear colleagues, I would like to end my short welcome speech with a few words spoken by Gustav Hofmann, the former General Director of Bavarian state libraries and president of the IFLA from 1958 - 1963, at the opening of the 1959 IFLA meeting in Warsaw. Gustav Hofmann died a year ago. In memory of this important Bavarian librarian and honorary president of the IFLA, I would like to cite his words which are as relevant today as they were in 1959:

...

"I think first of all that we must be profoundly conscious, inspite of political and national frontiers, that there is a vital necessity of a link between the various civilizations and a unity in the profession of librarian. In this domain, I see the practical value and the great importance of our annual meetings." (Libri 9, 1959, p. 251)

IFLA 1983

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE MUNICH 1983

Official Opening

125-PLE-9-E

Welcoming address

Mathilde Berghofer-Weichner

State secretary

Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Unterricht und Kultus

Munich, Federal Republic of Germany

For internal use only:

to be brought to meeting no:

.....75.....

Remarks: si

to be presented orally [X]

for distribution only [ ]

Compliments from the state secretary Mrs. Dr. Mathilde Berghofer-Weichner, at the opening of the 49th IFLA General Conference in Munich, at 9.00 a.m. on the 22nd of August 1983.

It is my great honour and pleasure to be able to welcome, in the name of the Bavarian government the participants of the forty-ninth General Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. I would particularly like to greet the numerous guests who have travelled from other countries to this conference in Munich. I wish to express with emphasis, that we are proud in Bavaria, that the IFLA Conference is taking place in Munich, thus geographically "bending a bow" from the congress in Montreal last year to the 50th General Conference in Nairobi, next year. This choice of congress places alone, reflects the universality of IFLA and the image this international and universal organisation has of itself.

The Bavarian capital feels honoured to belong to those cities, which already for the second time are having librarians as guests from all over the world for a professional meeting. In 1956, nearly thirty years ago, representatives of the library profession from numerous countries met in Munich for the first time. They exchanged views and information, strove for reconciliation on an international level, after the fatal and disastrous war and endeavoured to promote the rebuilding and extension of libraries. This happened just over one decade after the end of World War II, in the midst of the economic and cultural reconstruction of the Federal Republic of Germany, at a time when Bavarian libraries also had to face difficult problems after the most heavy destruction of buildings and great loss of valuable and the most valuable collections. The younger generation has already forgotten about this period: to them it is only natural to be able to have unrestricted access to all the information necessary for research, tuition, studies, professional training and further education as well as for entertainment and leisure time, from well-supplied libraries.

Today the Bavarian "Freistaat", a "Land" of the Federal Republic of Germany, represents a rich and diverse library community which may serve as an example of the development of German libraries during the past decades; but which also reveals distinct features originating from the history and traditions of Bavaria. This "Land" looks back on more than a thousand years of political and cultural traditions, which over the centuries made the uninterrupted growth of Bavarian libraries possible. They reflect a rich

scientific and literary tradition, highly developed, flourishing writing and publishing, century-old determined acquisition of manuscripts and books and the committed industrious collecting of individuals. In many aspects, the collections of Bavarian libraries form a historically grown homogenous entity, which is of scientific and cultural importance to our "Land" and a significant contribution to its cultural development. The government's efforts for an equal promotion of cultural opportunities in all regions of the "Land," traditionally date back to the 19th century and with regard to libraries, have been strongly revived in the past decades. The most essential turning-point in the history of Bavarian libraries, was the secularization at the beginning of the last century during which more than 150 monasteries were dissolved. Their book collections comprising some most valuable items were not completely transferred to the central "Landesbibliothek", at that time the Royal Court Library, which is today the "Bayerische Staatsbibliothek", but were partly incorporated into the existing university libraries and partly formed the basic collections of regional libraries to be newly established in different parts of the "Land".

The Bavarian library system with its differentiated structure, geared towards diverse needs, is to be viewed against this historical background. This system includes all well-known categories of libraries, from the highly-specialised research library and the scientific library for the general public, to the small local community library. The "Bayerische Staatsbibliothek", with its nearly five million volumes - the largest library in German-speaking countries - together with university libraries, six of which were founded during the last two decades, form the most prominent institutions. These newly-founded university libraries, which were and still are developed according to modern professional aspects, are visible proof of the continuous and vigorous development of Bavarian libraries.

Bavaria's duty as a cultural state does not just limit itself to the maintenance of academic and research libraries, but also continues promotion of public libraries all over the "Land". Undoubtedly, public libraries are considered as the cultural mediators with the widest area of contact. Municipal and church libraries throughout the "Land", especially in the rural areas have developed favourably during the last decades. The increase in achievements can be recognised by the continuous growth in the number of users. With its "Landesentwicklungsprogramm" [Regional Development Scheme] of 1976, Bavaria has formulated a long-term scheme with compulsory aims

giving priority, amongst others, to the development and improvement of public libraries. This is aimed at a comprehensive and evenly distributed provision of literature and information. You can gather from these points, the great value this "Land" attaches to libraries as cultural institutions. On the one hand they are "treasure houses of the mind", committed to preservation of the book collections, which have grown through the centuries. On the other hand, they are places for scientific research, which is a pre-condition for the economic and intellectual progress of our "Land". Last but not least, they supply every one with the required literature.

The title "Libraries in a Technical World", was chosen by you as this year's conference theme. I hope you will spend a worthwhile time exchanging views and experience in an open, objective and collegial atmosphere. The conclusions drawn from this conference may hopefully help to solve various problems in different countries. I also especially wish you a pleasant stay in the Bavarian "Land" of libraries.

IFLA 1983

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE MUNICH 1983

OFFICIAL OPENING

109 - PLE - 8 - E

Opening Speech

by

Else Granheim
President of IFLA

For internal use only:
To be brought to meeting no:
. . . . . 75 . . . . .
Remarks: Si
To be presented orally ☒
For distribution only

Mr. Prime Minister,
Mr. Mayor, Distinguished Guests and Friends of IFLA,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Chosen as the main theme for the 49th IFLA General Conference, the importance of technological developments for libraries today is indisputable and is central to all libraries and also to the institutions which educate librarians to serve in a global community which is constantly changing in character.

The fact that we are faced with a plurality of media creates greater possibilities for giving users better service, but at the same time librarians need greater insight in order to decide with what media the individual user will best be served according to his abilities and needs.

Librarians have during the past years become more user-oriented than ever before. New technologies will no doubt accentuate this trend even more strongly. Copying techniques as well as automated access to various kinds of data open enormous possibilities for users. However, these technological advances have created new problems of copyright. These have to be solved in such a way that copyright holders will not sustain any loss, and at the same time solved in such a way that the community can utilize the new technologies.

Cooperation across borders between libraries and library associations has become more of a "must" in order to promote the efficiency of library work universally. IFLA will therefore, as I see it, have an even more important role to play in the future, in close cooperation with other international bodies such as, for example, FID and ICA, and of course Unesco.

We must together see to it that the supplying of information is not commercialized to such an extent that the gap between those who need information but who cannot pay for it, and those who have easy access to the great information resources becomes even greater. Transfer of appropriate technologies is required, but also simpler and more traditional ways of transferring knowledge and information must be utilized.

I appreciate the Unesco representative emphasizing here today the importance of a balance between activities taking technological changes into account and the establishment and consolidation of traditional information services.

Whether we like it or not we have to face the fact that the role IFLA can play is inevitably dependent on sufficient economic means, through membership fees and by other types of funding.

Many of you will know that the IFLA Executive Board appointed a Task Force which met right here in Bavaria some months ago, thanks to the hospitality of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, to discuss the future of IFLA.

IFLA has grown in strength and size throughout the last decade, but, as I said in my introduction to the Task Force, growth and expansion often lead to administrative and structural problems when they reach a certain point. For a while one can, with the same staff and the same structure, cope with the growth, but sooner or later the balloon will burst, and the necessary expansion of the administration will mean a greater expenditure than the income which an increased number of members will bring to the organization.

A report from the Task Force meeting, that is the views and proposals put forward for consideration by IFLA's steering bodies, has been put on the agenda for the Council Meeting later this week.

Thanks to a commission for Unesco in Venezuela and financial support from the authorities in Brazil, I have, since the last IFLA General Conference, visited these two countries and established closer contacts. I am firmly convinced that there is an increasing interest in IFLA in Latin America and hope that currency problems and other economic difficulties will not create obstacles to extended cooperation and a broader participation in IFLA's professional bodies.

It is necessary for us all to realize that it will take longer for results of international work to appear than the results of the work we each do on our domestic front. I am therefore pleased to recognize that matters discussed with Australian and New Zealand colleagues when I attended their first joint conference in 1981 now seem to be materializing. As examples I can mention the proposal to add corresponding members to the Standing Committees of our Sections as a means of overcoming the communication problem. The idea of bringing an IFLA General Conference to Australia was then also raised for the first time.

The increase in membership from the Third World has led to an extended network of contacts, but we must unfortunately admit that even minor difficulties may lead to the severing of these connections. Economic setbacks have occurred in most parts of the world. These restrict the possibility for many of us to participate as actively in international work as we would wish. For countries in the Third World it may mean, however, that the one or two colleagues who have been able to attend IFLA Conferences fairly regularly will disappear from our Standing Committees and their contact with the international library community will be severed. This is just as unfortunate for us who need to know their views and wishes as it is for them, because it is these colleagues in whom we must put our trust when projects are to be launched in the developing world. Letters from capable colleagues who have found themselves in the situation I have described have prompted me to underline this so strongly at the present moment. But this also gives me

an opportunity to remind you of our Secretary General's appeal for solidarity among IFLA members. Our welfare societies have, in all their efficiency, become more and more impersonal. We contribute to all kinds of welfare by paying our taxes or by contributing voluntarily to different agencies which disperse the funds impersonally. We do contribute out of a spirit of fellowship, but we offer as a reason for the impersonal gesture the fact that we wish to avoid embarrassing others. We no longer feel a personal responsibility. I think we shall have to reconsider this view.

IFLA and all its members have an important task in convincing politicians that it is through knowledge and information that we are able to face depression and find effective remedial measures. This is true for the developing as well as for the industrialized areas of the world.

Librarians are still considered as a serious but all too modest occupational group. When the public becomes aware of services or new medias in the libraries that it has not known about, I have never found that the public blames its own ignorance. It is always the library which is blamed for lack of information. This is also one of the reasons why I am in full sympathy with the idea of "An International Year of the Library" - a proposal put forward to Unesco from various quarters and which will be discussed with Unesco representatives and other colleagues later this week.

Before concluding I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to the local organizing committee for their excellent work. We are very pleased to be given the opportunity to spend this week in the beautiful City of Munich with all its famous cultural institutions and to get together with more German colleagues.

With these words I have the pleasure of declaring IFLA's Council Meeting and 49th General Conference open.

IFLA 1983

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE MUNICH 1983

Division:

Section:
OFFICIAL OPENING

94 - PLE - 7 - E

OPENING ADDRESS OF THE UNESCO's REPRESENTATIVE

Jacques TOCATLIAN, Director General Information Programme

Paris, France

For internal use only:
to be brought to meeting no:
. . . . . 75 . . . . . .
Remarks: Si
to be presented orally [X]
for distribution only [ ]

49th COUNCIL AND GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF IFLA, MUNICH, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
21 - 27 AUGUST 1983

Speech of the Unesco Representative at the Opening Session,
Jacques TOCATLIAN, Director
General Information Programme

Madame President
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my privilege to convey to you the greetings of the Director-General of Unesco who sends warm wishes to the Federation for the success of this 49th IFLA Conference.

The theme chosen for this Conference : "Libraries in a Technological World" is also one of the preoccupations of Unesco reflected in the Organization's Second Medium-Term Plan for 1984-1989 and, specifically, of its General Information Programme which encompasses UNISIST.

Nations cannot make real progress without the independent capacity for scientific and technological creation which opens the way to endogenous development rooted in their own respective cultures.

Developing countries are currently faced with an unprecedented challenge : that of embarking, often under difficult conditions, on an all out effort to acquire the appropriate technologies and adapt them to their own needs in order to guarantee their own survival. Indeed, it is by integrating such technologies as living elements of their own cultures that these countries can best enable themselves to take a decisive step forward in their overall development, of which library development is an essential component.

Unesco considers that specialized information, especially scientific and technical information, plays an essential role in the growth and mastery of knowledge and know-how. It has therefore adopted a strategy regarding this type of information

which consists in strengthening the capacity of each nation and each society to collect, store, exchange and use the information necessary for its development, in particular through the use of modern technologies. Libraries the world over have an essential role to play in this regard and Unesco relies on their active co-operation in applying such a strategy.

The Organization's future action in this field is outlined in its Major Programme VII : Information Systems and Access to Knowledge", one of the fourteen Programmes set out in the Second Medium-Term Plan for 1984-1989 which was approved by the General Conference at its Fourth Extraordinary Session last December.

The main characteristic of this Programme is the balance that has been achieved between innovative activities taking technological changes into account, and the continuing efforts to establish and consolidate traditional information services, whose existence is essential. Indeed, while it is necessary to foster the introduction of informatics and telecommunications technologies, on which rapid access to information in fundamental areas now depends, traditional archive and library services still constitute an essential means of acquiring knowledge and safeguarding the intellectual heritage.

Under this Programme, the first series of activities provides for the application, in Member States and at the international level, of standards, tools and technologies that will make it possible to establish compatible information systems and services and thereby to meet the needs of users efficiently. In 1984-89 for instance, portable software packages for use on various mini-computers will be developed in order to implement the various standardized procedures for data processing and for their experimental application in the creation of data bases and banks in developing countries. During the following biennia (1986-87 and 1988-89), the software packages will be more widely distributed and installed free of charge in developing countries, thus leading to the establishment of compatible data bases and banks. Also, four integrated projects will be launched which will provide for the practical application of software and normative tools. These projects will also

lead to the creation of local data bases, provide for linkages with host centres in other countries or at the international level, and establish additional services in response to users' needs. Moreover, efforts will be intensified with a view to setting up regional networks whose development will be continued during the following biennia.

Concurrently with these activities, it is planned to assist in introducing national mechanisms to coordinate activities in all branches of specialized information, the development of various kinds of libraries including school and academic libraries, national and public libraries, documentation and information centres, and, under the Records and Archives Management Programme (RAMP), the development of archives services and activities pertaining to the preservation of manuscripts. In addition, as a follow-up to the International Congress on Universal Access to Publications (UAP, 3-7 May 1982), a number of activities will deal with the problem of access to publications.

By comparison with the preceding biennium, substantial changes in the programme of PGI have been introduced in connexion with the new activities foreseen in the Medium-Term plan, and which have been given financial priority. On the other hand, budgetary constraints have made it necessary to make a rigorous selection, retaining only those of the Organization's activities which were absolutely indispensable within the framework of a limited budget.

The activities foreseen under Major Programme VII also include the establishment of the Unesco Integrated Documentation Network dealing with the information produced by the Organization, the consolidation of sectoral documentation centres and those of the Regional Offices and affiliated Institutes, including the further development and application of the CDS/ISIS software package. Also, the specialized sectoral information systems of Unesco will be further developed, co-ordinated and harmonized under this Major Programme.

The marked convergence between the programmes of IFLA and of Unesco noted in recent years seems certain to continue. Our common concern with problems of access is likely to lead to complementary activities working towards Universal Availability of Publications. My Unesco colleague who is attending the Conference and myself will be reviewing with many of you here in Munich progress made in our co-operation on activities in many other areas including UBC and training problems.

I am confident that this 49th General Conference will be an enriching experience for all of us. Let me conclude by wishing you all every success in your endeavours.

IFLA 1983

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE MUNICH 1983

Division:

Section:

PLENARY MEETING

85-PLE-6-E

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

by

Ms. M.-L. BOSSUAT, Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris

For internal use only:
to be brought to meeting no:
. . . . . 68 . . . . . .
Remarks: Si
to be presented orally ☒
for distribution only ☐

49th IFLA Council Meeting (original: French)
Munich - 1983
Session I - Sunday 21 August 1983, 15:00 - 18:00

Report from the Treasurer, Ms. M.-L. Bossuat, Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris

In compliance with the requirements of the statutes, I have pleasure in presenting to the Council the financial results over 1981 and 1982, and the budgetary forecasts for the present year 1983 and for 1984. You will note - with me - that the four budgets have one common feature: they have all been or will be difficult to get balanced.

(1) Accounts 1981 and 1982

The accounts have duly been published in IFLA Journal, 1982, no. 3, and 1983,no. 2 respectively. I am convinced that you all have read and studied them with due attention.

These figures reflect the activities of the IFLA Headquarters and the various steering bodies, the work of the various professional units, of the Divisions, Sections and Round Tables, regional buraaus, Unesco contracts etc., etc., and, therefore, merit special attention.

On this place it is not necessary to go into details, but rather to examine together the results.

1981. The accounts-1981 comprise the accounts of the Headquarters in The Hague and of the International Offices for UAP and UBC. The accounts show a considerable deficit of Dfl. 121,858, of which the UAP Office shoulders one third, and the UBC Office two thirds. Therefore, the figures give a somewhat distorted picture of the overall financial situation, which needs clarification.

In former years, the support from the Council on Library Resources (CLR) covered in particular the staff costs of the UBC Office. The change in direction which the CLR applied more recently means that now the emphasis is on project funding. For the funding of staff costs new ways had to be sought, and were actually found by the Programme Management Committee, by requesting the national libraries to support the PMC-managed programmes of UAP and UBC. Moreover, Unesco was approached for support of the follow up of the International Congress on UAP.

It is, nevertheless, to be regretted that it proved to be unescapable to use the UBC reserves for the maintenance of the UBC Office. The main IFLA programmes are the spearheads of its activities, and their work must be continued and developed.

1982. The accounts-1982 show a slight surplus of Dfl. 20,994, which at first sight seems an excellent result. However, to temper an excessive optimism, we must add the following comments.

(1) We have to place on record that the payment of the dues shows an amount of dues in arrears of more than Dfl. 50,000. When the accounts were being prepared the most ideal outcome of the dues payment had been taken into regard. To reach a balance between income and expenditure it is indispensable that the dues in arrears are actually paid. To enable IFLA to forecast realistically its resources and to use these in the best possible way, it is essential that the quasi total income from membership fees really is received in the first six months of each year.

(2) A certain number of supplementary expenses have been incurred which were either not budgetted or not correctly estimated, more in particular the costs of the meetings of the steering bodies and of the involvement of Third World representatives in the activities of IFLA. These expenses are directly related to the professional work of IFLA, and indispensable for the functioning of this work.

(3) One also cannot overlook the fact that the income from a percentage of the Conference registration fees (5%) levied by IFLA remained below the estimate. A sum of Can. $ 7,000 was transferred to IFLA, but this was insufficient to cover the costs of travel and accommodation of HQ staff. These costs had partly to be met from IFLA general income.

One cannot finish the scrutiny of the general accounts-1982 without recording that during 1982 the IFLA General Secretariat has received hospitality in the new building of the Royal Library in The Hague: a considerable economy for our Federation. We set great store by thanking its Director, Mr. Reedijk, who has always been very conscious of the problems of IFLA, and also by recognizing the role of the Dutch Ministry of Education.

UAP and UBC. The accounts 1982 of the UAP and UBC Offices which amount to Dfl. 69,896 and 305,482 respectively need also some clarification. The two programmes, which are being managed by the PMC, are not financed from the general income of IFLA: salaries, travel costs and costs of publications

are being met from either the earmarked grants from national libraries or from other funding bodies and from Unesco contract moneys. It must, however, be noted that in order to meet the costs of the UBC programme, it proved to be necessary to dive deeply into the reserves, which cannot contribute towards a permanent solution. At this point, we gratefully recognize the fact that the British Library offers support to the two offices.

Budgetary guidelines for 1983 and 1984 (HQ)

There is a sense of satisfaction in announcing that the revised budget-1983 is balanced: there will be a slight surplus. IFLA expects to receive Dfl. 905,000 and to spend Dfl. 891,000: a surplus of Dfl. 14,000.
It must be noted that the membership fees will be the same in 1983 as in 1982. Indeed, the four most important contributors, namely the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, the USA, and the USSR will each contribute Dfl. 7000 less - which has duly been foreseen - provided the Council approves the lowering of the ceiling of the maximum contribution from 12 % to 10 % of the total fees from Association Members. This is undoubtedly a wise move, because the recession hits the various countries and their library associations equally. Nevertheless, it means a minor amputation of the budget of the Federation. IFLA had the pleasure to welcome 79 new Members in 1982, but lost 22 Members. This brings the total membership to 1101 from 119 countries. The universality of the Federation has therefore, become a reality. But the reverse side of the medal is the constant increase of the costs of operation of IFLA. As such it is a paradox that we must rejoice and regret at the same time.
In 1983, we will still receive grants from Unesco, the Council on Library Resources and the Canadian International Development Agency. These grants, linked to contracts, stimulate the development of the activities of the professional units of IFLA. They are partly sophisticated research grants, but in majority the grants must achieve library progress at the grassroot level.
Let us call to mind the economizing earlier approved in the field of publication activities. IFLA Directory will not be published in 1983, but has regularly been updated in IFLA Journal. The Editorial Committee of IFLA Journal will meet only once in 1983.
Travel of HQ staff and of the members of steering bodies have been reduced to a strict minimum, but taking into regard the steep rise of air tariffs, we will be obliged to raise this budget item.

The Executive Board has decided that an extra grant of US $ 1,000 will be allotted to each regional bureau to be utilized for regional news bulletins. It is hoped that such newsletters will bring about a better communication within the region, and will give wider publicity to the work performed in the regional bureaus. We all know how much store IFLA sets by the development of librarianship in the Third World.

Budget 1984 (HQ). This budget is based on data provided by Secretary General and has been approved by the Executive Board. The expenditure will rise to Dfl. 960,000, but the income to Dfl. 915,000 only. As stated above, the operational costs have increased and therefore there will be a small deficit unless new sources of income are found.

Before ending this introduction, I wish to stress some points.

From a budget covering general income and expenditure, which amounts to one million Dutch guilders, about 40 % is earmarked for purely professional activities (note: if the UAP and UBC budgets are included, the percentage is far greater, of course).

It is absolutely certain that we ought to spend a more important part of the general income from membership fees on the activities of Divisions, Sections and Round Tables which are the backbone of IFLA's development.

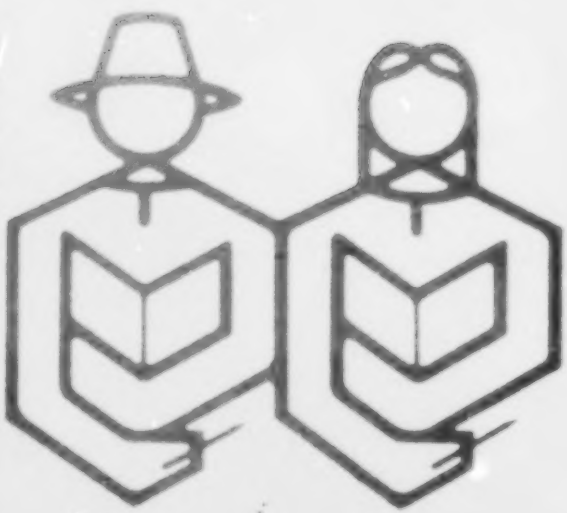
The budget of this present year and of 1984, are, however, minimal budgets. They allow the continuation of the professional groups, but have not much room for expansion. If IFLA desires to carry out its Medium-Term Programme, it has to open up new sources of income. It is the task of all of us to seek and to find these sources.

Do not believe that I am particularly pessimistic at this moment, but I wish to keep the membership of IFLA fully informed and conscious of the financial problems of the Federation.

In finishing, I wish to urge you: reflect, define projects, be innovative, and the Treasurer will do the rest. What that precisely implies I cannot, however, say to-day. It is up to you all!

3-PLE-2-E

trends 1981-82



IR0305'92
IT

IFLA

Trends 1981 - 82

Report to the Council - 1983
by the
Secretary General

IFLA

Trends 1981 - 82

Report to the Council - 1983
by the
Secretary General

Contents:

1. IFLA As an Organization
2. IFLA As the Global Voice of Librarianship
3. IFLA and the Third World
4. IFLA and Some of Its Ardent Supporters
5. IFLA and Its Main Programmes: UAP and UBC
6. IFLA and Its Professional Grassroots
7. IFLA and Its General Conferences
8. IFLA and Its Finances
9. Summary and Presentation to the Council - 1983
10. Résumé et présentation au Conseil 1983 (Sommaire en français)

Postal address:
P.O.B. 95312
2509 CH The Hague
Netherlands

27A

1. IFLA as an Organization

1.1 *Quantitative aspects*

The highlights of IFLA activities for 1981 and 1982 have been published in *IFLA Journal* 1982, No. 2 and 1983, No. 2 respectively. The main statistics are briefly recorded here:

	per 31-12-80	31-12-82	increase	
Members/Affiliates	1005	1101	96	(10%)
Countries covered	111	119	8	(7%)
Persons with direct responsibilities within IFLA (officers and Standing Committee members)	337	392	55	(16%)

Contrary to the trend set by the global economic recession, IFLA still is growing steadily in membership (later, the growing complexity will be dealt with). In the two years covered by this report, IFLA's net membership growth was 10%. The new Members amply made up for the cancellations. The latter were few and far between, indicating a fairly stable membership of library associations and institutions which are eager to support the cause of international library cooperation. There is, however, a tendency to join as a personal affiliate. The reason may be that colleagues with professional interest in IFLA cannot always convince their authorities of the benefits of international contacts. By the end of 1982 IFLA had 123 personal affiliates (an increase of 35% in 2 years).

IFLA may be proud of the geographical spread which is surpassed only by the international governmental organizations (Unesco had 139 Member States as of 31-12-82). Few non-governmental organizations can boast of a coverage of countries equal to that of IFLA. If China is singled out as one of the countries in which the profession delighted the IFLA Family by joining in the report period, other library associations will hopefully forgive me. Their names have been duly recorded in *IFLA Journal*.

1.2 *Growing complexity*

With the increase in numbers there is also a noted increase in the variety of interests of the membership and in the professional expectations which they bring to IFLA. Moreover, the geographical spread (of the 119 countries covered, nearly 70% belong to the Third World) makes communication increasingly complicated. Another cause for reflection is the interest in Section activities, which is indicated by the growing registration for Sections (on 31-12-82 there were 2725 registrations for Sections recorded at IFLA HQ).

The Members are increasingly aware of the rights which IFLA's strictly democratic structure gives them. The right to register for any Section also carries with it the right to nominate and elect members of the Standing Committee of the Section (core groups of experts who are responsible for the Section programmes). In odd years (the so-called Council years) the Standing Committees (SC) are partly renewed. During 1981, 141 new SC members joined the then 29 Standing Committees. In 1983 another massive renewal of the groups of experts is expected. This trend has caused some concern within the Professional Board as the continuity of the programmes may suffer if too many well-informed experts (well-informed on the subject as well as on IFLA itself) are replaced by newcomers to IFLA. On the other hand, a constant input of fresh professional "blood" may safeguard IFLA's future. To find the right balance between these overlapping - but in themselves not contradictory - interests has occupied much of the thought and discussion within the steering bodies during the report years. It is expected that the discussions will continue in 1983 and 1984, and will be linked to a further evaluation of the IFLA structure (cf. the next paragraph).

1.3 *IFLA structure*

The IFLA structure as we know it today was established in 1976. In 1985 nearly a decade will have passed, and an evaluation will be called for. Not only the growing complexity, but also the maintenance and further development of IFLA's main programmes (UAP, UBC and possibly others) need a thorough re-thinking of the management aspects of the IFLA structure. It is the intention of the steering bodies to start the consultations on these questions in 1983, with an eye on final Council decision in 1985.
(Note: IFLA has 3 steering bodies: the Executive Board (overall management and administration), the Professional Board (coordinates the professional work undertaken by the various professional groups), and the Programme Management Committee (responsible for the main programmes of UAP, UBC and - when it is established - International MARC))

The Secretary General had alerted the Executive Board in March 1982 by way of a memorandum called, "Where is IFLA Heading?". She was in particular concerned about the lack of infrastructure. The steering power had - according to her - become problematic because it (1) was delegated too much, and (2) was not sufficiently supported by preparatory staff action and by staff execution of decisions.

Some figures taken from HQ in The Hague may serve as illustration (comparison of 1975 with 1981 by percentage of increase):

1.	Membership	+ 58%	
2.	Countries covered	+ 14%	
3.	Professional groups	+ 81%	
4.	Officers/SC members	+ 22%	
5.	Incoming mail needing individual attention	+119%	
6.	Budget	+300%	
7.	Supporting staff at HQ	+ 20%	(one person - the Professional Coordinator)

These figures make it clear that the supporting staff at IFLA HQ has not been keeping pace with the increase in the various IFLA activities and Member communication needs.

The results of the intensified professional involvement in international work (training seminars, research studies, growing General Conferences, increased publication activities, Section registration, etc.) cannot be quantified, but are in any case considerable. And the trend is evident that this involvement is not likely to slow down in the coming years. The Professional Board, in particular, has already put considerable thought into the measures which would ensure a smooth functioning of IFLA, notwithstanding the - in itself widely acclaimed - expansion of Section activities.

Parallel to the increased activity is the need of finding the funding to redeem the expectations which IFLA has engendered. Must IFLA be regionalized in order to bring IFLA nearer to the Members? Or must IFLA be streamlined and concentrate on essentials - on main programmes? These are questions which will not be answered in identical tenor by the varied groups of professionals who form the core of IFLA, but these are questions which were raised repeatedly in the preceding years (also outside of the steering bodies) and for which a solution must be found in the coming years.

And what will be the place of the main IFLA programmes of UAP (Universal Availability of Publications) and UBC (Universal Bibliographic Control) which cut straight through many Section interests? And how will IFLA achieve a really global action radius of a future International MARC (IM) programme?

The Executive Board - in consultation with the Programme Management Committee - took a first important step towards a possible solution to these problems by establishing at its meeting in Munich on 19 November 1982 a Task Force which would meet in the early spring of 1983 (an in-depth meeting of several days) to review in particular the scope and linkages of the IFLA programmes and activities and the financial policies. The discussions will be based on the assumption that UBC, UAP and IM form essential components of IFLA's professional content and, therefore, are considered to be part of the IFLA structure.

It is expected that suggestions resulting from the Task Force deliberations and the ensuing consultations with the professional groups and the membership will lead to firm proposals to be decided upon by the Council in August 1985 (New York).

2. IFLA as the Global Voice of Librarianship

2.1 *Unesco and other international agencies*

Although the Member-statistics give some indication of IFLA's role as the global voice of librarianship, statistics alone are not sufficient when claiming a worldwide impact through the size of the membership and the geographical spread of the organization. Nor is it decisive - be it encouraging - that IFLA can state with some pride that the Federation is really comprehensive as it offers a professional home for library associations, libraries and librarians whatever the type of library or the expertise. However, the field of interest of libraries is gradually expanding into information in all of its fascinating aspects and alluring prospects.

Is IFLA only following this trend or is it providing leadership? And how prestigious is its image as representative of the profession in its relationships with other international agencies, be they governmental or non-governmental?

In looking back over recent years, one observes a definite tendency for a growing involvement of IFLA in the interaction of international bodies in the broad field of information, communication and culture. Other agencies working in these fields not only increasingly consult IFLA (or the appropriate IFLA bodies) but also rely more and more on its judgment in matters relating to IFLA's expertise. This development gives due satisfaction, but also draws heavily on IFLA's limited manpower - steering body members as well as staff.

The relationship with Unesco has been strengthened in the report period. This may be illustrated by some of the most important meetings in which IFLA took part in 1982 - a most active part, for in many instances IFLA served as co-organizer:

- Unesco General Conference, Paris, November/December 1982
- Unesco/IFLA International Congress on UAP, Paris, 3-7 May 1982
- World Book Congress, London, 7-11 June 1982
- Unesco Regional Meeting on Public Library Policy, Caracas, 25-29 October 1982
- Ad Hoc Regional Group of Experts for the General Information Programme in Latin America & the Caribbean, 19-23 April 1982
- World Conference on Cultural Policies, Mexico City, 26 July - 5 August 1982
- Unesco Ad Hoc Committee on Education and Training Programmes, Paris, 4-6 October 1982
- Unesco/WIPO Working Group on Access by the Visually and Auditory Handicapped to Copyright Materials, Paris, 25-27 October 1982
- Ad Hoc Group on a Common Communications Format, Paris, 2-4 June 1982

- Meeting of Experts on the Revision of the Recommendation Concerning the International Standardization of Statistics, Paris, 13-17 September 1982

This list serves only as an illustration of the varied interests of IFLA in the work of Unesco and vice versa.

Another form of cooperation with Unesco is the contracts which are concluded between Unesco and IFLA for training and research purposes. IFLA passes those contracts on to the appropriate bodies within the IFLA structure, for example, to Sections. During 1981/82, 13 contracts were signed. The monitoring was no minor task, and sometimes caused delay. The Section officers, in particular, devoted much time and expertise to the execution of the contracts in order to reach a useful outcome. The research is laid down in documents which led in some - not all - cases to publications. There is certainly a need to investigate the publication aspects (in so far as they are a responsibility of IFLA) more thoroughly and more quickly, as the demand is great and cannot always be met.

Other international bodies with which IFLA maintains a regular contact through representation at their conferences and meetings and through other action were FID, ICA, ICAE (Adult Education), IRA (International Reading Association), ISO TC/46, WCWB (Welfare of the Blind), to mention only a few.

Seen over the 2 years 1981/82 IFLA was represented at 47 major meetings of other organizations. However, representation in the limited sense of "being there" is insufficient. For a responsible interaction more is needed, in particular a constant mutual exchange of information and a follow-up of recommendations. The latter two actions fall in particular within the province of IFLA staff at HQ, London (UBC Office), Boston Spa (UAP and Interlending) or the honorary directors of the regional bureaus in Bogota, Kuala Lumpur, and Dakar. There is a cause for concern. It is virtually impossible to keep all relationships productive at the staff level. The professional IFLA staff is very limited and even proportionally diminishing. The IFLA President and the Chairmen of the Professional Board and Programme Management Committee are taking a fair share of the international consultations on their shoulders, but are in fact spending more time on these matters than can reasonably be expected. With the greater demands which their own institutions may make upon them in times when national resources and manpower are becoming more and more tight, IFLA may run into serious trouble. If IFLA is claiming to function as the global voice of librarianship in its widest sense,

it must fulfill this task really satisfactorily. There is, however, a definite trend towards giving first priority to the relationship with Unesco, with ISO, FID and ICA running a reasonable second. Other undoubtedly necessary consultations - for instance, with the publishers' world - are, alas, kept on the back burner. IFLA is, in this respect, falling short of expectations and it is only fair to voice these concerns in a report to the membership.

2.2 *Conference of Directors of National Libraries*

The Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) can be described as an informal body convened on a regular basis to permit the directors of national libraries to meet for discussions at the policy level. The IFLA Section of National Libraries could not fulfill that urgently needed function as the Section is more concerned with the various fields peculiar to national libraries at the level of practical execution of their various tasks (the national library staff participate in the specialized Section activities). It could be stated in a simplified way that the CDNL in many cases makes the first move and - if appropriate - passes on suggestions for further action to the IFLA Section(s).

There is no formal membership link with IFLA, but the Conference meets during the annual IFLA Conferences and the Chairman of the CDNL traditionally meets at that time with the IFLA President and Secretary General to discuss items which came up during the CDNL meeting and which might be of interest to IFLA or require IFLA action. Moreover, the CDNL has a representative in the Programme Management Committee of IFLA. The PMC manages the major IFLA programmes of UAP and UBC and - when established - International MARC. In this way useful interaction can be ensured as necessary.

To give an indication of the content of the CDNL meetings, at the Montreal meeting the CDNL discussed conservation policies and activities in national libraries and also the report of the Steering Committee for the International MARC Network Study (a committee set up by CDNL).

3. IFLA and the Third World

3.1 *The IFLA Regional Library Development Fund*

One of the most memorable decisions of the Executive Board was the establishment of a special Fund for regional library activities in 1982. The reason for this move was the need for an increased visibility and thrust which such a Fund would lend to IFLA's regional development programme. It is not too presumptuous to state that in the 13 years (since the first pre-session seminar in Liverpool in 1971) that IFLA has made determined efforts to positively involve the profession in the Third World in the international

programmes, much has been achieved. This is not the moment to write the history of this decade, but one has only to be reminded of the

- Unesco/IFLA pre-session seminars
- the increased Third World attendance at General Conferences
- the spectacular growth of Third World membership in IFLA and the geographical spread:
  1971: 24 Member Associations in 21 Third World Countries
  1982: nearly 300 Members/Affiliates in 82 Third World countries
- the establishment of the three regional offices
- the mainly CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) supported regional projects (see 3.3)
- the Unesco-sponsored training seminars

to feel that progress may be regarded as promising. There is, however, a reverse side to any coin. The term "coin" is very appropriate in this context, because the one black spot in an otherwise refreshingly bright picture is the money. It is already frustrating for steering bodies and staff to have to apply the brakes when regional enthusiasm leads to proposed projects for which simply no funding is available, so how much more frustrating will this be for the initiators of these projects in the region? It is true: money is becoming very tight these days - also in library circles, alas - but the personal solidarity within the profession could prove to be strong enough to resist this negative tendency. It is still hidden in the future whether the Regional Library Development Fund will eventually be a source of inspiration and action, or an empty gesture. It is up to the IFLA membership to provide the answer!

3.2 *Unesco's assistance*

The so-called pre-session seminars have contributed not only to the furtherance of the professional knowledge of the participants, but have also been instrumental in bringing Third World colleagues to the IFLA General Conferences - for many the one and only opportunity to become fully acquainted with all IFLA activities.

In 1981 the pre-session seminar was held in the DDR with the theme: *Library Work for Children and Young Adults.*

Another highlight in 1981 was the Travelling Seminar for librarians from developing countries on centralized library services. This seminar was organized by the Round Table of National Centres for Library Services with help from Unesco. The participants visited centres in the Netherlands, Belgium, the FRG and Scandinavia.

The various meetings in 1982 which were sponsored by Unesco have been listed in 2.1. Special mention must be made of the Post-Congress Seminar on UAP following the Unesco/IFLA UAP Congress in May 1982, a seminar in which 18 experts from the Third World evaluated the results of the UAP Congress with a view to their own particular needs.

Contracts undertaken in 1981 and 1982 which were specifically geared to Third World librarianship were:

- a feasibility study on the implications of planning an extension of library services to non-literates in Africa
- four country papers related to the problems of planning and/or operating a Cataloguing-in-Publication programme in developing countries (Brazil, Colombia, Malaysia and Nigeria)
- a study on the feasibility of setting up units to produce braille editions of books and reading materials in Africa.

Other contracts did not concentrate in particular on developing areas, but the results will be of equal interest to the various regions, for example, a contract to study the different requirements for public library buildings, also taking into regard climatological conditions.

3.3 *The support of the Canadian International Development Agency*

Next to Unesco support, CIDA support must be mentioned. Since the early 1970s, CIDA has been the main driving force in IFLA's Third World programmes. Without CIDA IFLA would never have reached the level at which it is now operating: regional offices, regional Sections, and a regular interaction between librarianship in the Third World and the industrialized world.

For the period 1981/83 a contribution of up to Cdn $ 50,000 was approved by CIDA for - predominantly - library work at the grassroots level. These projects concern:

- the provision of teaching materials to blind children in Sierra Leone
- "The seed of education": home libraries in Zimbabwe
- the maintenance of a referral service on experienced library and information personnel in developing countries of Asia and Oceania (ELIPA)
- an investigation into the functions and manpower development of library and information systems in southern Africa
- the development of reading in Senegal.

Moreover, some of the CIDA funds were used to cover the expenses of Third World librarians who - for the first time - were exposed to international discussion in IFLA meetings. However, this is a mere drop in the ocean: IFLA needs far more funds to ensure effective participation of Third World librarians in the activities of Sections and Round Tables. For the time being there is more frustration than satisfaction in this respect.

4. IFLA and Some of Its Ardent Supporters

The solidarity within the profession may best be illustrated by the efforts made by a number of national library associations, national libraries (predominantly for UBC and UAP), and other national and regional agencies to enable IFLA to expand its services. In particular must be mentioned the contributions of library associations and library service centres in Scandinavia, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands which enabled new library associations to join IFLA. This type of support demands little investment and in comparison yields remarkable revenues.

Larger sums were provided by the Council on Library Resources for study and research in the fields of:

- copyright of materials for the handicapped
- copyright of bibliographic records
- ISBD review
- guidelines for national UAP planning, policy and development
- strengthening the relationship with China.

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (FRG) has been instrumental in furthering research in the UAP context:

- repository planning
- follow-up of the Unesco/IFLA Congress on UAP
- impact of new technology on the availability of publications.

Another fine example of supportive action for professional progress was the outcome of consultations between the representatives of socialist countries at the IFLA Conference in Leipzig (1981). This resulted in firm offers for the printing and distribution of IFLA publications (such as the Medium-Term Programme and the UBC Occasional Papers).

The publishing firm, Martinus Nijhoff, enabled IFLA to award a generous annual study grant to a librarian of a Third World country (10 weeks in western Europe to study a subject selected by the grantee). In 1981 the grant was awarded to Ms M. I. Atinmo (Nigeria) who studied the production and distribution of reading materials to visually handicapped readers. In 1982 the grantee was R. Ramachandran (Singapore) who compared the nature of professional and para-professional library education in western Europe.

The move (March 1982) of IFLA Headquarters to the new Royal Library building in The Hague with the ensuing hospitality - an example set earlier by the British Library (UAP and UBC Offices) - was just another gem in the glittering chain of marvellous support to IFLA activities over and above the regular membership fees.

In this context one cannot overestimate the support which is "hidden" in the willingness of Member-institutions to enable staff members to assume responsibilities for Section and Round Table activities. Communication is expensive these days, and so is staff time. Both are provided in gratifying quantities to IFLA by a variety of institutions.

This chapter makes no claim to be exhaustive. However, since it is trend-setting which is dealt with in this report, the trend to be more than just a passive Member of IFLA may in the future prove to be IFLA's life-buoy in times of stress.

5. IFLA and Its Main Programmes: UAP and UBC

The full annual reports of the IFLA Offices for Universal Availability of Publications (UAP) and for Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC) have been published in *IFLA Journal*, 1982, No. 2 and 1983, No. 2. Some of the highlights are recorded here, but the reading of the full success story is nevertheless recommended.

5.1 *UAP*

Preparations for the Unesco/IFLA International Congress on UAP and the Post-Congress Seminar dominated the work of the Office during the latter part of 1981. In particular, the annotated programme, main working document and a background document summarizing the results of research were prepared by the Office under contract to Unesco. The on-going research programme included studies funded by Unesco:

- a study of patterns of worldwide availability of publications
- the availability of publications in individual countries, a pilot study
- a study of commercial book supply to libraries, comprising a detailed literature review and a survey by questionnaire

and studies funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft:

- a study of national acquisition policies
- a study of national repository plans and programmes.

The Congress was held 3-7 May 1982 and was attended by over 200 people, including librarians, archivists, documentalists, publishers, booksellers and government officials. Numerous recommendations were made for consideration and action by various bodies, including Unesco and IFLA. Those recommendations for action by IFLA have been allocated to the various Sections and Round Tables.

The Post-Congress Seminar was held 8-10 May 1982 and 21 individuals participated. The Seminar followed the broad framework of the Congress, but provided opportunity for more detailed consideration to the particular problems and needs of developing countries.

It is to be expected that the recommendations of the Congress will demarcate the field of action of the UAP programme in the near future.

5.2 *UBC*

Like the UAP Office, the UBC Office was also heavily involved over 1981 in the preparation for an international meeting, the International Cataloguing-in-Publication Meeting, held 16-19 August 1982 in the week preceeding the 48th IFLA General Conference. The Office prepared the working document for the meeting and commissioned several studies as background papers, including country reports from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, FRG, Malaysia, Netherlands, Nigeria, UK and the USA. The meeting brought together not only librarians involved in the creation of CIP records and the provision of national bibliographic services, but also publishers and other members of the book trade. The recommendations - covering the scope of CIP, the content of the CIP record and operating procedures for a CIP programme -were directed at both CIP agencies and publishers. The UBC Office will be involved in future action plans, and will publish the full proceedings at a later date.

The UBC Office has an ongoing responsibility for the maintenance of the ISBDs, which are in use worldwide. During the course of 1981 and 1982 work continued on the ISBD Five-Year Review, the basis of which is to achieve improvement of the ISBD texts published in 1977/78 by clarifying wording, extending the international validity of their stipulations, with no basic changes made to their framework. A Review Committee met in August 1981 to consider all comments and to take decisions about the scope and timetable of the review. The UBC Office produced a harmonizing and editorial ISBD text by March 1982 to serve as the basis for the review groups considering the individual ISBDs. Work on the ISBD Five-Year Review will be completed by April 1984.

IFLA and its main programmes: a relationship comparable to a modest, hardworking parent and two brilliant children quickly outgrowing their environment--an ambiguous situation which gives rise to pride as well as concern.

6. IFLA and Its Professional Grassroots

Those who have been following IFLA policy closely might have an as yet not substantiated premonition that IFLA's professional grassroots, the professional groups, are in danger of being uprooted. Although such an event would be natural for any root, IFLA must not underestimate the effects of such action. The professional groups together form the backbone of IFLA and have done remarkable work with little resources. Only 11% of the annual IFLA expenditure on professional programmes is allocated to the operation of the Divisions, Sections and Round Tables and to their projects (as against 50% to UAP and UBC). The groups also act as a forum for discussion, as a meeting place for librarians with similar interests. This is one of the purposes of IFLA, and not one to be neglected. Perhaps the visibility of the Section and Round Table activities is not as spectacular as that of the main programmes, but it is nevertheless of great importance to the experts involved in the activities...and not for them alone, as the following examples of the achievements of Sections and Round Tables in the report period may prove beyond doubt. The full survey can be found in the *IFLA Annuals*, but here a rather arbitrary selection of achievements is offered: from every Division (8 Divisions coordinate the 40 Sections and Round Tables) just two, because one only seems so meagre and three or more would outgrow the scope of this report. Therefore, publications and projects are listed in a varicoloured sequence with apologies to those which have most reluctantly been omitted.

(1) General Research Libraries

- *Guide to the availability of theses* (Publication 1981 of the Section of University Libraries)
- Preparation of a *Directory of Parliamentary Libraries*, to appear in 1983 (Section of Parliamentary Libraries)

(2) Special Libraries

- Quite a few Sections produce newsletters: the Newsletter of the Section of Biological and Medical Sciences Libraries may well be cited as a model of what a specialized group can offer to IFLA.
- Workshop for Practical Map Curatorship in Developing Countries, held in Utrecht, Netherlands, 25 August - 8 September 1981 (Section of Geography and Map Libraries)

(3) Libraries Serving the General Public

- International Course on Library Services to Hospital Patients and Disabled People, Stockholm, Sweden, 20-25 September 1982 (Section of Library Services to Hospital Patients and Handicapped Readers)
- *Books for the mentally handicapped: A guide to selection* is a joint project of the Sections of Hospital and Children's Libraries. The project was completed in 1982.

(4) Bibliographic Control

- A Working Group is considering the set-up of an annual Bibliography of IFLA Conference Papers and Other Documents (Section on Bibliography)
- The Working Group on International Authority Control, established jointly by the Sections on Cataloguing and Information Technology, has finalized its work on a standard for printed authority records, format requirements and implementation of international authority record exchanges.

(6) Management and Technology

- The establishment in 1982 of a Round Table on the Management of Library Associations can well prove to be instrumental in the furtherance of the role, organization and operation of library associations all over the world.
- The Section on Library Buildings and Equipment has, together with the Section on Public Libraries, undertaken a Unesco contract for a study on the different requirements for public library buildings according to the type of public library, the type of users, the various primary and secondary functions, climatological and geographical conditions, etc. The elements which can lead to international standardization will be determined.

(5) Collections and Services

- Development of a model interlibrary lending code (Section on Interlending and the IFLA Office for International Lending)
- The availability and use of official publications (Unesco contract executed by the Section on Official Publications)

(7) Education and Research

- The project on "Equivalence and reciprocity of qualifications in library education curricula" (Section of Library Schools) aims at a worldwide *Reference guide to library education curricula*, to be published early in 1984.
- The Section on Library Theory and Research is, in consultation with the Section of Public Libraries, working on models for user research

(8) Regional Activities

A range of projects has been listed in Chapter 3. The beneficial role of the regional offices in Kuala Lumpur, Dakar and Bogotá in the promotion of regional cooperation, in maintaining regular communication (Newsletters!), in the preparation of the Unesco/IFLA Pre-Session Seminars, and in serving as clearinghouses for IFLA Conference Papers and other IFLA documents, is once again stressed.

If one considers the variety of projects (see also the *IFLA Medium-Term Programme 1981-1985)* it seems a necessity to encourage the activities of the professional groups both now and in the future. The intellectual input in IFLA through the expertise of colleagues working on the Section programmes cannot be measured, but is of priceless value.

7. IFLA and Its General Conferences

(see the *IFLA Annuals* for the full reports)

For the first time in IFLA history, the IFLA Conference Proceedings appeared in Chinese. The Proceedings of the 1981 Conference were published by the Library of the Academia Sinica in Beijing. The size? 520 pages! What more could one say about the scale of the professional content of IFLA Conferences?

The 1981 Council and General Conference was held in Leipzig, DDR 17-22 August 1981. Meetings: 229. Papers: 147. Participation: 946 from 70 countries. Theme: "National Institutions and Professional Organizations of Librarianship".

The 1982 General Conference was held in Montreal, Canada, 23-28 August 1982. Meetings: 277. Papers: 170. Participation: 1915 from 63 countries. Theme: "Networks".

Bare facts which speak their own language. It is obvious that IFLA Conferences are growing immensely nothwithstanding economic constraints. It is as well that one of the former IFLA Presidents who exclaimed in the early 'fifties that the value of a mammoth congress is more than questionable, is no longer amongst us. He was speaking in a time when 50-100 participants were "cluttering" the corridors.... Nevertheless, it would be playing the ostrich to deny that the increase of participation brings with it serious problems for local organization as well as professional coordination. IFLA is not lacking invitations and is fully booked for the next decade. It is, however, expensive to organize an IFLA Conference and - what is perhaps even more problematic - to recruit sufficient manpower to manage it. One has only to realize that - for instance - the local organization in Montreal (re)produced 1,500,000 pages of text, to become awed by the scope of the preparations. The question of interpretation services is also a hot issue: many Sections would like to acquire it (about 15% actually get it). Moreover, the call for Spanish as an IFLA language becomes stronger and stronger. But to add Spanish to the existing 4 languages (English, French, German and Russian) is practically not feasible because of the costs.

And what about the strain on IFLA's resources? Not all Members realize that IFLA cannot boast of a Conference organizer - let alone a Conference organizing department. The staff is just performing this heavy task along with their many other duties.

That the IFLA Conferences, notwithstanding these drawbacks, not only grow in quantity but also in quality is a miracle, jointly performed by all IFLA officers, ably supported by local organizers and IFLA staff.

The IFLA Conferences are a means to give IFLA greater visibility and to enable the profession to manifest itself in all of its diversity. The Conferences must, therefore - as a continuous trend - be rated high on the list of IFLA priorities.

8. IFLA and Its Finances

In looking at the financial situation of IFLA in the past period, one is referred to the Treasurer's and Auditor's reports for detailed information.

However, a graphic representation of:
(1) IFLA Income & Expenditure 1982 (excluding UAP and UBC)
(2) UAP Income & Expenditure 1982
(3) UBC Income & Expenditure 1982
is given below in order to provide an overview of the way in which IFLA's work is financed.

In very broad terms it may be stated that the costs of IFLA Headquarters (staff, steering bodies, membership services, General Conferences) are met from membership fees and Dutch support, while the operation and projects of Divisions, Sections and Round Tables and the regional activities are mainly financed through grants from Unesco and other funding agencies.

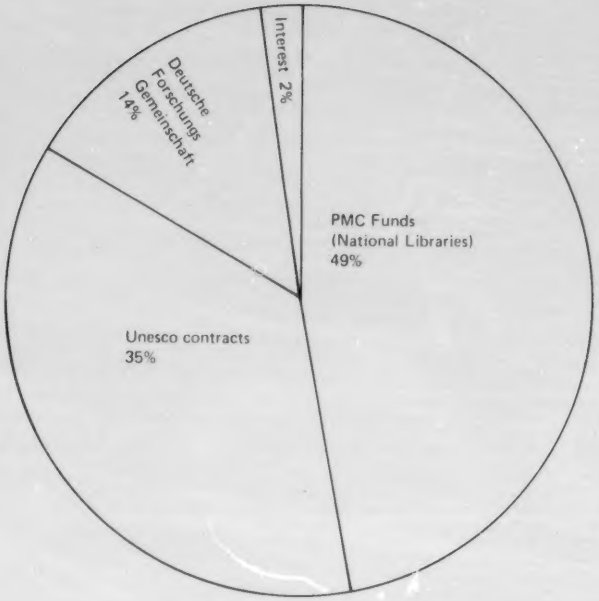
Unesco and other agencies are also responsible for the financing of a great deal of the UAP and UBC research and training activities. The British Library provides for accommodation and part of the Offices'operation. The UBC publications offer quite a good foundation for UBC funding (27%), but nevertheless the PMC funds (mainly from extra contributions earmarked for UAP and UBC by national libraries) and the available reserves have to cover a substantial part of the UAP (49%) and UBC (37%) expenditures. There are no indications that this trend will be changed in principle in the coming years: IFLA must rely on the good will of international bodies and national agencies and libraries who are sufficiently interested in IFLA's programmes to provide a solid basis for their development.

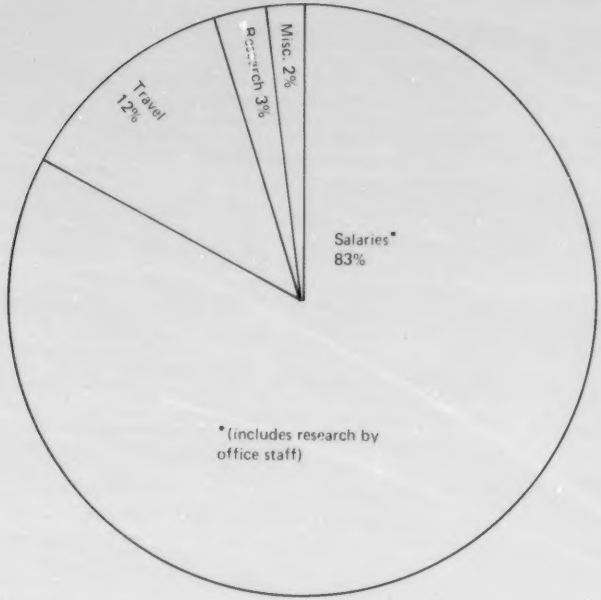
Income

UAP Income & Expenditure 1982

Dfl. 69,896

Expenditure





45

46

MW Feb. 83

9. Summary and Presentation to the Council-1983

This report about the trends noticeable within IFLA in 1981 and 1982 must be regarded as a personal account from the Secretary General who accepts full responsibility for it. Many data are not included, as thse have been recorded in the "Highlights" as published in the No. 2 issue of *IFLA Journal* for each year. These issues also contain the extensive reports of the UBC Office, the UAP Office and the Office for International Lending. For the same reason the full list of IFLA Publications is not included in this report.

The fact that it proved to be impossible to record in this report all programmes and projects going on within IFLA may be regarded as a tribute to the constantly increasing activity of the various groups, such as Divisions, Sections and Round Tables. On the one hand, this trend is encouraging, but on the other hand it is reason for concern. Where will the boundaries be? Or will IFLA keep going with undaunted enthusiasm towards horizons which will never be reached? Where will IFLA's main emphasis be laid? On the main programmes of UAP and UBC? Or would it be possible to strengthen these programmes while at the same time activating the work of the specialized groups? Such policy needs a well-defined budgetary plan. But that is more easily said than done in an organization which is dependent upon non-membership funds for practically all major programmes and projects (cf. Chapter 8).

Some basic re-thinking of these problems is essential if IFLA wishes to maintain the present trend of steady progress in quantity as well as in quality.

This discussion has started in the meantime, and will lead to membership consultation in the near future. The 1100 Members in 119 countries are expecting something from IFLA, but that "something" has a varying content in the different parts of the world. In some areas the more sophisticated tools for regional and international library cooperation and exchange of information are subject for research and discussion,and in other areas the most elementary library services have still to be developed. And in between these extremities a vast field of library and information activities available for international and regional action can be defined. IFLA is complex and will remain complex: no adjustments of statutes and rules can remedy this complexity, which is in fact the core of IFLA's reason for existence.

In a time when the financial screws are being tightened everywhere, global librarianship will more than ever before have to combine its forces rooted in professional awareness, solidarity and expertise in order to maintain and strengthen the absolutely vital cooperation as represented by IFLA - a cooperation also vital for national survival.

If the trends as outlined in this report do not present a false image, it may be predicted that IFLA will not only be able to hold its own in the world of today, but will even gain in importance.

10. Résumé et présentation au Conseil 1983 (Sommaire en français)

Ce rapport sur les tendances perceptibles au sein de l'IFLA en 1981 et 1982 doit être considéré comme une contribution personelle de la Secrétaire Générale qui en accepte la pleine responsabilité. De nombreuses données ne sont pas reprises dans la mesure ou elles avaient été indiquées dans la rubrique "Highlights" publiée chaque année dans le no. 2 de l'*IFLA Journal*. Ces fascicules contiennent également les rapports complets des Bureaux pour le CBU, l'UAP et le Prêt International. Pour la même raison la liste complète des publications de l'IFLA n'est pas jointe à ce rapport.

Le fait qu'il s'avère impossible d'inclure dans ce rapport tous les programmes et les projets en cours au sein de l'IFLA doit être considéré comme une conséquence de la croissance constante des activités des différents groupes professionnels (Divisions, Sections et Tables rondes). D'un coté cette tendance est encourageante, mais d'un autre coté c'est une raison d'inquiétude. Où seront les limites? L'IFLA continuera-t'elle avec un enthousiasme indéfectible à marcher vers des horizons qui ne seront jamais atteints? Sur quoi l'IFLA devra-t'elle faire porter son principal effort? Sur les programmes essentiels de l'UAP et du CBU? Ou bien sera-t'il possible de renforcer ces programmes tout en développant dans le même temps le travail des groupes specialisés? Une telle politique a besoin d'une planification budgetaire très précise. Mais ceci est plus aisé à dire qu'à faire dans une organisation qui est dépendante de ressources autres que les cotisations de ses membres pour le financement de presque tous ses grands programmes et projets (cf chapitre 8).

Il est essentiel d'avoir une nouvelle réflexion de base sur tous ces problèmes, si l'IFLA souhaite maintenir la tendance actuelle d'un progrès régulier à la fois quantitatif et qualitatif.

Dans cette attente la discussion est ouverte, elle conduira à une prochaine consultation des membres. Les 1100 membres de l'IFLA dans 119 pays attendent quelque chose de l'IFLA, mais ce "quelquechose" correspond à un contenu différent selon les parties du monde. Dans certaines regions, les recherches et les discussions portent sur la fabrication des outils les plus sophistiqués pour la coopération international et l'échange d'information, ailleur on doit encore développer les services bibliothéconomiques les plus élémentaires. Et, entre ces deux extrêmes, existe un large champ d'activités concernant les bibliothèques et l'information, qui appelle une action régionale et internationale. L'IFLA est un monde complex et le restera: aucune révision de statut ou de règlement interieur ne portera remède à cette complexité, qui est en fait au coeur même de la raison d'être de l'IFLA.

Dans un moment où partout les restrictions budgetaires sont très fortes, le monde des bibliothèques tant entier devra plus que jamais reserver ses forces a la connaissance à la solidarité et à l'experience professionnelles. Elle pourrait ainsi maintenir et renforcer la coopération absolument vitale dont l'IFLA est le symbole, coopération toute aussi vitale pour une survie nationale.

Si les tendances soulignées dans ce rapport sont réelles, on peut prédire que l'IFLA ne sera pas seulement capable de tenir sa place dans le monde d'aujourd'hui, mais y verra même croître son importance.

IFLA 1983

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE MUNICH 1983

Division:

Section: UAP OPEN FORUM

115-UAP-1-E

Progress report from the IFLA international Office for UAP -

Supplement to the the annual report published in IFLA Journal Vol.9 (1983) No.2.

by M.B. LINE , Director and S.VICKERS

IFLA Int. Office for UAP, Boston Spa, U.K

For internal use only:

to be brought to meeting no: 157

Remarks: Si

to be presented orally ☐

for distribution only ☒

UAP: PROGRESS REPORT AUGUST 1983

This report supplements and brings up to date the report published in IFLA Journal 9 (2), 1983, pp 166-172.

1. Stimulation and co-ordination of activities undertaken by others.

As noted, the development of UAP and the translation of recommendations made at the International Congress on UAP into practical measures requires action on a broad front. Previous attempts to persuade IFLA's Sections to consider the role they can play to further UAP have not proved very fruitful. They have between them a great deal of experience and expertise to offer; their closer involvement is important to move matters forward.

Since it was felt that the disappointing response might reflect a need for more guidance and advice, a letter was sent to most Sections in May 1983 indicating specific areas of activity that might usefully be pursued by each. A number of Sections have subsequently informed the Office of their intention to consider this matter at their meetings in Munich. If UAP is to continue to be a major element in IFLA's future programme, further support from Sections will be essential.

Also stemming from a Congress recommendation was the holding of a UAP Training Seminar at the British Library Lending Division. Here too, it is hoped that Seminar participants will initiate and encourage publicity and action to diffuse UAP within their own regions, thereby reinforcing the limited resources available to the Office. One of the participants (from Jamaica) has already prepared a revised plan for developing the activities of her National Library in the light of the UAP programme.

The Office has also been involved in the planning of the UK Library Association conference to be held in September on the theme of "Access to published information".

Useful experience has been gained which may help others planning such meetings, which can be an important means to publicize UAP, analyze present performance and consider possible improvements.

2. Research projects

- The availability of publications in individual countries, a pilot study. An article describing and commenting on the methodology used will be published in Unesco Journal of Information Science, Librarianship and Archives Administration. Discussions are currently taking place and advice is being given to Bermuda on conducting a national UAP study using the methodology that was tested for the pilot project. A study of the present state of availability in the United Kingdom is being undertaken at the suggestion of the Office which, it is hoped, will be available for the UK LA conference.

- Commercial book supply to libraries. This was published in July in microfiche in collaboration with the British Library Lending Division at a price of £5.00.

- Guidelines for the compilation of union catalogues of serials has been published by Unesco, General Information Programme and UNISIST (PGI-83/WS/1). The IFLA Office for International Lending will be giving further consideration to the optimization of union catalogues for interlending purposes.

- A study of the impact of new technology on the availability of publications was begun in May. The final report, which it is hoped will be published, should be available at the beginning of 1984.

- Guidelines for national planning for the availability of publications. The draft report submitted to CLR in May 1983 has been accepted. Subject to the agreement of CLR it will be published by the Office.

Income

Dfl. 948,500

IFLA Income & Expenditure 1982

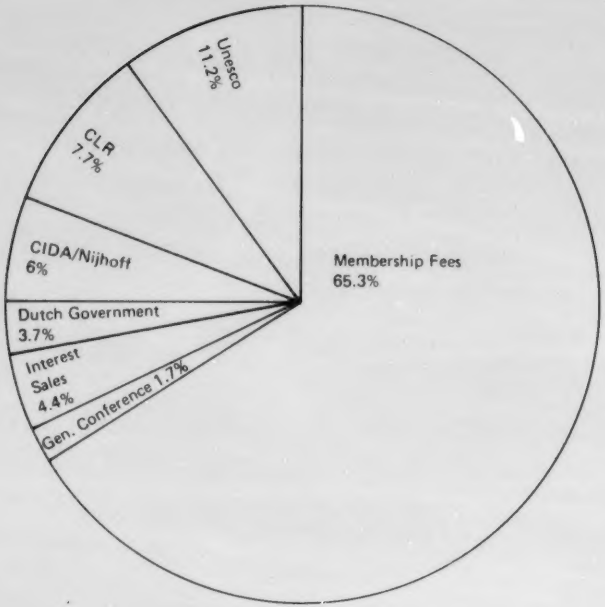
excluding UAP & UBC
(also not included: pre-session seminar)

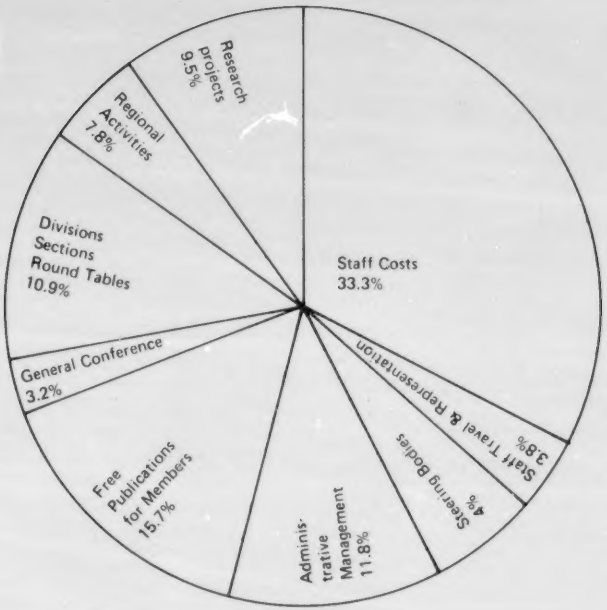
Expenditure

Dfl. 923,000

Surplus

Dfl. 25,500



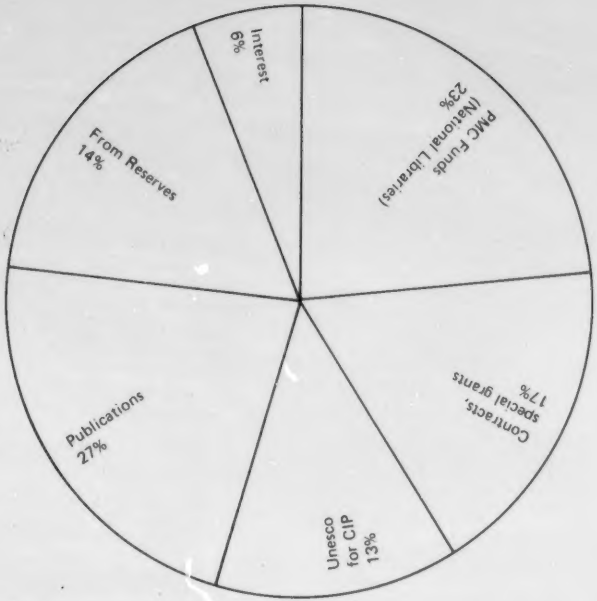


Income

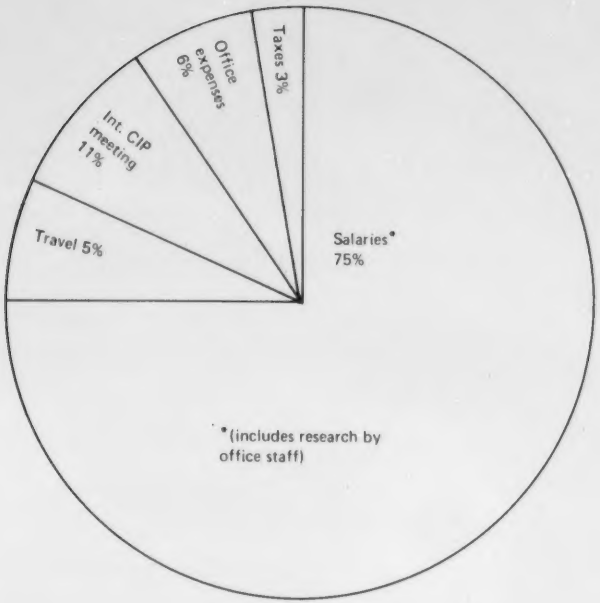
UBC Income & Expenditure 1982

Dfl 305,482

Expenditure



47



48

- **Integrated UAP models.** This should soon be ready and again it is intended that the work be published.

- Study on the practical effects of existing international conventions on the exchange of publications. The Office has been informally approached and has declared its willingness to prepare a revision of this work under contract to Unesco.

3. Publications

In addition to the works mentioned above, the book on UAP, to appear as IFLA Publication 25, should be available in Munich.

Sales of National acquisition policies and systems had reached 244 and of National repository plans and programmes 208 by the end of May.

Familiarity with the concept and objectives of UAP is a pre-requisite to action. Office staff continue to contribute articles and to speak at meetings, and advice and support has been given to others, including a number of individuals working on doctoral dissertations on aspects of UAP. The bibliography of articles and other publications treating UAP that is maintained by the Office now contains well over 100 references. It is rewarding to note the steadily broadening coverage, both of particular aspects of UAP and of countries (over 25), and that UAP is increasingly referred to in other contributions to library literature as the concept and programme became more widely known and understood. An increasing number of visitors to the British Library Lending Division visit the Office.

The first issue of the UAP Newsletter was widely distributed (1500 copies) and seems to have been well received, although requests for further issues have come mainly from libraries. The second issue appeared in July and was equally widely distributed, as will be the next few issues, after which automatic circulation will be limited to those who have replied positively.

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE MUNICH 1983

Division:

Section: II. Plenary meeting

161-PLE-11-E

Report on the Unesco/IFLA Pre-Session Seminar: University Libraries in Developing Countries - Structure and Function in Regard to Information Transfer for Science and Technology

by

Mr. Edward LIM Huck Tee

Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, Malaysia

For internal use only:
to be brought to meeting no:
258
. . . . . .
Remarks: Si
to be presented orally [x]
for distribution only [ ]

REPORT ON THE UNESCO/IFLA PRE-SESSION SEMINAR : UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES - STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION IN REGARD TO INFORMATION TRANSFER FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

This paper was supposed to have been prepared by Sam Nwoye of the University of Nigeria, but unfortunately, he has been unable to attend IFLA for health reasons. As a result I have been given the honour, although at very short notice, to present the report on the Pre-Session Seminar in his stead. The focus or theme of the Seminar, which was held from 15th to 21st August, 1983 was on "University libraries in developing countries - structure and function in regard to information transfer for science and technology."

The organisation of the Seminar was indeed very timely, for in spite of the many obstacles that university libraries in developing countries face, they are still generally the best supported of libraries and constitute in many developing countries the most important, if not the sole, national information resource.

The planning and organisation of the Seminar was entrusted to the Section on University Libraries which, in consultation with the Information Technology Section, set up a Planning Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. A.J. Loveday to undertake the task. From the way the programme was structured it was obvious that the Planning Committee had a twofold objective: firstly, to encourage the exchange of experience among university librarians of the developing countries with a view towards seeking solutions to problems; and secondly, to discuss the role of university libraries in developing countries in regard to information transfer with particular

...2/-

reference to science and technology. The Third World librarians were carefully selected on the basis of their experience and knowledge and comprised 14 librarians from Africa, 4 from Asia, and 3 from Latin America. In addition, there were 4 participants from Europe, one of whom was also a paper presenter. The programme was tightly structured to provide systematic consideration of the associated topics, with the commissioning of papers on specific topics by selected participants. The Planning Committee achieved a near miracle in being able, with but one exception, to circulate the papers to all participants before the start of the Pre-Session Seminar. That some participants did not receive a few of the papers was not the fault of the Organising Committee but was related to the deficiencies in the postal systems of some of the countries concerned.

The range of problems and issues raised and discussed represented the whole conspectus of university librarianship, and a full enumeration of the issues would probably be too time-consuming and unproductive. It is very difficult in a report of this kind to describe the wide ranging papers that were presented most ably by the authors. At best it is only possible to present the essence or the flavour of the papers concerned. To do true justice to the papers would require reading the papers in their entirety. However, before I proceed to provide brief summaries of the various papers presented I would like to issue a word of caution.

It would be presumptuous to refer to all the developing countries as though they constitute a homogeneous group. The term is used loosely to encompass the developing countries

of Asia, Africa and Latin America, but there are marked differences in their levels of development, their economies, their political systems, and their socio-cultural and linguistic environments, and these differences must be borne in mind whenever generalisations are made. Nevertheless, from the discussions that emerged, the developing countries, despite their dissimilarities, all seem to face common problems in the provision of information services which have been characterised by Keren and Harmon as follows:

(a) Lack of appreciation by national decision makers of the role of Science and Technology Information as an important component of development programmes.

(b) The absence of an adequate infrastructure for information storage and processing.

(c) The absence of an adequate infrastructure for information use and absorption by users.

(d) Economic, administrative, technological, cultural, educational, and structural barriers to an adequate information flow.

The Seminar was kicked off with an interesting paper on the university library situation in the Federal Republic of Germany by Dr. Gattermann, University Librarian of Dusseldorf.

...4/-

Those of you who are familiar with the complex library situation in the Federal Republic of Germany would have admired the clarity with which Dr. Gattermann explained what is essentially a very confusing picture to the uninitiated. The fascinating tapestry that he wove became the point of reference in many subsequent discussions relating to the role of university libraries in a developing nation. The keynote address which Sam Nwoye had prepared was ably summarised by Anafulu of Nigeria. Nwoye examined the role of the university library in a developing country especially in relation to the formulation of a national information policy. The characteristics as well as the peculiar problems of university libraries in the Third World were then identified and discussed. These included poor finance, inadequate staffing, the lack of motivation, absence of strong library associations, indequate indigenous book trade infrastructures, and generally a low level of library development. His paper did not attempt to offer solutions, but merely attempted to outline the problems for further discussion in subsequent sessions.

The question of acquisitions and collection building, one of the core activities of any university library system, pre-occupied participants for one full day. John Ndegwa, University Librarian of the University of Nairobi, Kenya, set off this session with a theoretical analysis of the factors to be considered in the development of effective acquisition policies. These include identification of the users and their requirements, indication of the levels of provision for each group of the library's clientele, guidance regarding textbook provision and duplication, and treatment of non-print

media as well as the conditions under which materials acquired through gifts, exchange and deposit should be spelled out. Michael Gill of Barbados showed how the limited allocation of a university library could be equitably divided by using a formula based system. He also advocated a method of overcoming the problems of a resource poor library through the use of overseas data bases, and argued that this method can be quite cost-effective and may significantly alter the acquisition policies of Third World university libraries.

Nwafor of the University of Jos, Nigeria, provided a catalogue of the problems of acquiring overseas and local materials. Against the backdrop of the Nigerian environment he outlined the usual problems encountered by Third World libraries in the acquisition of such materials, and argued that many of these problems stem from an underdeveloped book trade, poor bibliographical control, the absence of basic infrastructures and governmental measures aimed at conserving foreign exchange. More specialised problems of collection building were introduced by Mrs. Schreiner of Brazil, who complained about the high surcharge imposed by subscription agents, while C.R. Namponya of Malawi dealt with the problems of agricultural materials, especially those associated with the acquisition of "grey literature". The establishment of medical library networks in South and Southeast Asia was dealt with by Miss Uthai of Thailand who outlined the various cooperative networks that have been established to improve medical library services in that part of the world.

The technological gap between the industrialised world and the developing countries was made starkly evident in Stephen Massil's paper which outlined the new information

technologies available in the industrialised world. He also raised some of the issues and implications for appropriate levels of implementation in the developing countries, and indicated the questions that arose in connection with the new technologies insofar as copyright, library management and other matters were concerned.

Lim of Malaysia in his paper tried to make a cogent case for the adoption of some of the new information technologies by the university libraries in developing countries. He argued that the very technological advances that have increased the gap between the developed and developing countries also offer a ray of hope for the developing countries. Technological advances have not only reduced the costs of computers significantly, but have also placed very powerful systems within the reach of the developing countries; and he made an argent plea for developing countries to consider using microcomputers as a first step towards the development of more sophisticated systems. The problems that libraries were likely to face at the macro and micro levels with the introduction of automation were also dealt with.

As mentioned earlier, it would be unwise to generalise about the developing countries. This was made startlingly clear in the presentation by R. Garduno of Mexico who painted an impressive picture of the various automated systems which had been developed in his country, the principal one being LIBRUNAM, an online cataloguing system. Joseph Anafulu of Nigeria surved the use of online services in the developing countries, and showed that development was still relatively uneven among the developing countries. He also made some proposals on how more effective use of the new information technologies could be made.

There was supposed to have been a paper on the relevance of the internatinnal data bases for developing countries. As the speaker concerned did not attend the Seminar, Michael Gill came to the rescue with a paper on this question. In the course of discussion, it was obvious that two issues required attention: firstly, the fact that information has replaced energy as the central productive input in an economy; and secondly, there was a need to redress the current excessive reliance by developing countries ~~of~~ on the information products of the industralised world.

In the final session the issues of training were discussed by Mwacalimba of Zambia. He stressed that there was a need to train university library personnel to cope with anticipated and increasingly sophisticated information needs of university library users in the developing countries. As the developing countries continue to tap more and more the scientific and technological information for development, university librarians would need to acquire the necessary academic and professional education so that they could more effectively play their roles as agents for information transfer.

The discussions that followed each presentation were both lively and stimulating. Indeed, the papers generated so much interest and discussion that the time allocated for each session was frequently inadequate. However, all was not work, and the many social events generously hosted by organisations such as the Goethe Institute, K.G. Saur and Siemens helped to enliven what would otherwise have been very exhausting days.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Loveday pointed out that there existed a great amount of variability over university library development in different parts of the Third World. In spite of financial constraints, he emphasied that university libraries should not forget their main objective of providing the best and most efficient services for their users. Governments, which established their university institutions to spearpoint national development by promoting high level manpower and research upon which the development of their countries depended, had a responsibility to provide adequate and effective library and information resources to achieve these ends. On the question of the new information technologies, he emphasised that these represented a key area of change which was affecting the nature and style of the library and information community around the world. Third World librarians should not be discouraged by the difficulties posed by the advent of these new technologies for they also represent an opportunity and a challenge. Steps should be taken, no matter how small, to use these technologies in order to ensure that university libraries would continue to hold a position that effectively supported the academic community.

The Seminar concluded with the passing of several resolutions. I quote:

UNESCO/IFLA EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE SEMINAR FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

University libraries in developing countries - structure and function in regard to information transfer for science and technology

R e c o m m e n d a t i o n s a n d r e s o l u t i o n s

Participants at the Exchange of Experience Seminar, having carefully considered the factors and problems associated with the role and structure of university libraries in developing countries in regard to information transfer for science and technology, wish to bring to the attention of the Professional Board of IFLA the following conclusions and resolutions reached during the seminar and requests that consequent action be undertaken as appropriate.

1. The Seminar recognises the need for Unesco and other international agencies to remind national governments of their responsibility for setting up agencies to define their information goals.

2. Conscious of the role expected of university libraries in national library and information policies and the special contribution that their collections make to a nation's library resources, the Seminar considers that national governments should ensure that additional funds are provided to enable their institutions to contribute effectively to the national provision.

3. There is urgent need for the formulation of the basis for university library standards for application on a national and regional basis in developing countries and the Seminar urges the IFLA Section on University and other General Research Libraries, in conjunction with Unesco and other agencies to undertake this work.

4. University libraries in developing countries are urged to formalise their library acquisition policies in order that their contribution to national information policies may be more effective.

5. Recognising the important role of "grey literature" in the context of national development in developing countries the Seminar strongly urges national governments to adopt liberal policies on their treatment and handling of this category of literature with a view to improving its accessibility (and effective bibliographic control).

6. Recognising the increasing importance of information technology in regard to information transfer the Seminar wishes to draw attention to the lack of adequate supporting communication systems and requests that representations are made by international agencies to national governments in respect of this.

7. Participants at the Seminar wish to reaffirm Unesco's policy in seeking to achieve reductions in telecommunication tariffs to enable effective information transfer among developing countries and between developing countries and industrialized countries.

8. Conscious of the barriers which exist in developing countries, which impede the free flow of information the Seminar seeks support from Unesco and other international agencies in seeking liberalisation of government policies on tariffs and import restrictions, particularly in the context of information technology (equipment and software), and that such restrictions, where appropriate, be applied in an informed and precise manner. Associated with such restrictions the Seminar recognises the value of Unesco Book Coupons and wishes to see a wider availability of them and an extension of their applicability to take account of the new technologies.

Dieses ist eine U-BIX Kopie — This is a U-BIX Copy — Ceci est une Copie U-BIX

9. The Seminar wishes to draw attention to the inadequacy of national book trade and their infrastructure in developing countries, which impedes the development of information transfer in the context of local need. While recognising the achievements that have been made to date, the Seminar urges Unesco and other international agencies to give due weight to this matter in their information and development programmes.

10. If developing countries are to benefit from the technological developments for information transfer, it will be necessary to promote awareness and the understanding of such developments. The Seminar considers that a most important aspect is the provision of specific training programmes, the establishment of guidelines for such services, and the provision of expertise and microcomputer and other necessary equipment to assist in the formulation and implementation of such developments. It sees the role of Unesco and other international agencies as crucial in this, in the provision of funds, expertise and the development of suitable software.

11. The Seminar, while noticing the importance of the international data bases for STI regrets the poor coverage of materials from developing countries and of materials that are relevant to those countries. It therefore recommends that Unesco and other international agencies actively promote the development of appropriate local data bases and seek to influence commercial producers in this respect.

12. The role of library schools in developing countries is considered crucial in the production of suitably qualified personnel.
The curricula of such schools should take account of the needs of libraries in the context of information technology. To secure adjustments to training programmes the Seminar has noted the need for suitable materials and the development of curricula to meet this new demand and urges Unesco and other international agencies to make appropriate provision.

13. In order to encourage the effective introduction of the use of automation and automated data bases in university libraries in developing countries, and in order generally to strengthen links between these countries and the industrialized countries the Seminar believes that links between individual university libraries in the developing countries and those in developed countries should be further encouraged and developed and recommends that steps be taken to promote such initiatives.

14. Recognising the great importance of regional cooperation in, and the coordination of, professional activities, the Seminar urges international agencies to provide financial assistance for the promotion of these objectives through regional and other meetings.

15. The Seminar has concluded that in the interests of effective development of library and information services in university libraries the librarian or his nominee should be included in the membership of bodies in their universities which are concerned in the academic and research planning including such bodies as faculty boards.

16. The Seminar, through the Professional Board, requests the IFLA Section on University and other General Research Libraries to monitor progress on the implementation of these recommendations.

Dieses ist eine U·BIX Kopie — This is a U·BIX Copy — Ceci est une Copie U·BIX

Before I conclude, I wish on behalf of all my colleagues who participated in the Pre-Session Seminar to express our thanks. First to our various sponsors, in particular IFLA, UNESCO, the State of Bavaria, and the DSE or German Foundation for International Development. Second to the members of the Seminar Planning Committee who have contributed time and energy so generously in planning the Seminar and looking after our welfare (in particular we want to acknowledge the great contribution of Mr. Loveday, Dr. Gattermann, Dr. Berninger and Mr. van Wesemael). Thirdly, we would wish to thank the Director of the Deutsches Museum and his staff for their valuable support (in particular Fraulein Reineke for all her diligent devotion to our various needs). Finally, our grateful thanks to all organisations and individuals too numerous to mention who have made our stay in Munich so pleasant and so enriching. Thank you.

H.T. Lim,
Chief Librarian,
Universiti Sains Malaysia,
Penang,
Malaysia.

19 Aug. 1983.

IFLA 1983

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE MUNICH 1983

Division: PLENARY MEETING

Section:

2-PLE-1-E

The Significance of Information Science for the Theory and Practice of Librarianship

by

Thomas J. GALVIN

Dean, School of Library and Information Science

University of Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh, USA

For internal use only:

to be brought to meeting no: 76

Remarks: Si

to be presented orally [X]

for distribution only [ ]

The Significance of Information Science for the Theory and Practice of Librarianship

It is widely recognized that electronic information technology has had a very significant influence on library operations and on library service in the latter half of the Twentieth Century. Since other speakers have been asked to discuss current and possible future trends in the application and adaptation of the newer electronic technologies to library service, I will not attempt, in any systematic way, to describe the computerization of library procedures, the age of the electronic book, or prospects for the advent of a paperless society. I will, however, note in passing that the application of the new technologies to libraries has been very uneven both within individual countries (in the U.S.A., for example, it is estimated that only about five per cent of the public libraries are currently making significant use of automation[1]) and from one country to another. I point this out because, despite the substantial effort that has already gone into developing library uses of computers and telecommunications technology, the library profession is far from having exploited the full potential of these technologies to extend the scope and to improve the quality of library and information services.

I would observe as well that, simultaneously with the emergence of the newer electronic technologies, and in large part as a result of those newer technologies, we have seen an expansion of both basic and applied scientific research that has actual or potential importance for library science. Computer science, communication science, systems

science and ergonomics; all are examples of disciplines that have achieved a place in the academic and scholarly world in part as a consequence of the need to understand how computers can best be made to serve human information needs.

I would like to speak today about the field of information science. Like the other "new" sciences that I mentioned a moment ago, the emergence of information science as a scholarly discipline is directly related to both the growing economic and social importance of the computer and to the expanding role of information as a central element in contemporary life. The mere fact that libraries have been and will continue to be a major arena for the application of both the methods and the findings of the emerging field of information science makes it important for librarians to understand what information science is about and what those who call themselves "information scientists" are attempting to accomplish.

Because information science is still a very young discipline, as time is measured in the scholarly world, it is not easy, and it is perhaps not even possible at this stage, in its evolution, to establish its intellectual boundaries in any definitive way.[2] Moreover, even the long-established disciplines have a way of continuously expanding and redefining their boundaries in a manner that obliges us to regularly modify our understanding of their respective domains.

One useful way to look at the emerging and expanding field of information science, in terms of at least a working definition, may be to enumerate some of the specific problems it is trying to address. In the most general sense, the field of information science rests on the central belief that information as a phenomenon, in and of itself, is sufficiently important as to be worthy of systematic study, teaching and scholarly investigation. This audience would, I presume, require

little persuading to accept the principle that information is important. Both the library as a social institution, and librarianship as a profession, find their ultimate justification in a deep and pervasive commitment to the fundamental value of information and knowledge both to the individual and to society at large.

If the importance of information is acknowledged, then it becomes both appropriate and desirable to try to understand it as a phenomenon in the scientific sense of the term "understanding." From this follows the simple formulation that information science is no more (and no less) than quite simply "the science of information." While such a definition may perhaps satisfy the classic requirements of simplicity and even a certain elegance, it is not very helpful because it is neither transparent nor especially informative. Before leaving it behind in search of a more satisfying description of the field, however, it may be useful to once again try, as others have in the past, to make clear that a "science of information" is not synonymous either linguistically or substantively with "science information."

It is not at all surprising that there should be some tendency to confuse the terms "information science" and "science information." As is well-known, one of the major factors in the development of information science as a discipline was the explosive growth of the world scientific and technical literature in the period after 1945. That enormous increase in the body of recorded scientific and technical data accompanied a rapid acceleration in the pace of scientific and technical research and development, making it a matter of necessity for scientists and engineers to have prompt and effective access to newly recorded research findings. Fortunately, the simultaneous development of the early computers led such seminal thinkers as Vannevar Bush to recognize that these fast,

powerful new electronic machines might be used to bring the scientific and technical literature under effective and timely control.[3]

To carry out any process on a computer, however, it is first necessary to be able to give the computer precise, clear, specific, unambiguous instructions. The similarity with the language and the methodology of the sciences will be immediately apparent. A common goal of scientific research is to describe natural phenomena in precise, clear, unambiguous terms. In order to program a computer to do information processing and retrieval tasks, one must be able to describe in clear, precise, unambiguous terms exactly how humans process, classify, store, combine and retrieve information. Thus, a new science of information, combining an understanding of information technology with the scientific study of human behavior in its information-seeking and information-processing mode, was needed so as to be able to make full and effective use of the enormous potential power of the computer to store, organize and manipulate data.

Let me return now to the suggestion that I made earlier in this paper, that a discipline like information science can be understood in some useful way by enumerating some of the problems which are of central concern to that discipline. Among the questions that the field of information science is attempting to answer are:

What is the nature of information?

What distinguishes information from random sensory data?

How can the process by which information is transferred from one individual to another be described in precise, measurable terms?

How does the medium through which information is transferred from creator to receiver influence the nature and the outcome of the information transfer process?

How does the human mind gather, process, store and retrieve information for use?

How can human information processing be described in a manner that makes it possible to replicate it with a machine?

To address such complex problems as these in a rigorously scientific manner requires knowledge and investigative methodologies drawn from a wide range of the longer-established scholarly disciplines. For example, among the disciplines represented by members of the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Library and Information Science are computer science, engineering, chemistry, library science, linguistics, statistics, cognitive psychology, economics, mathematics, sociology and philosophy. This is by no means an exhaustive list of the fields of scholarship that can contribute and that are contributing to the formulation of a theoretical structure concerning the fundamental nature of information and of the information transfer process; a theoretical structure that is at once elicited from and supported by a body of rigorously-derived empirical data.

I would like to elaborate briefly on a few of the major research themes that are of current importance in information science, so that the contribution this new science is making to strengthening and enlarging the theoretical base of librarianship will become more readily apparent.[4] I am certain that there is no more need for me to persuade this audience that librarianship, like every other profession, needs a broad, firm theoretical base to support professional practice than there would have been a need for me to convince you that information is a phenomenon worthy of study in its own right. I do not, by the way, believe that the methods and findings of research in information science represent the only source for adding to the theoretical basis of librarianship. Neither

are the results of information science research relevant only to librarianship; rather, these findings are typically applicable to a broad range of environments and organizations in which information transfer occurs. I do, however, believe that scholarship, systematic investigation and theory-building in information science constitute one very important resource through which professional practice in librarianship can be informed and potentially strengthened.

Information technology represents one major focus of systematic investigation in the information science field. It is in this area, of course, that the commonality between information science and computer science is most evident. Much information science research that is technology-centered is concerned at present with the man-machine interface, with enhancing the quality of the interactions between humans and information technology. A major goal is to design electronic systems that are more "user-cordial" or "user-friendly"; systems for example that substitute natural language for formalized programming languages, or that permit users to interact with the technology through voice communication as an alternative to keyboarding. The implications for such common library operations as on-line cataloging and on-line data-base searching will, of course, be readily apparent to those of you who are familiar with these newer library technologies.

Under the general heading of technology studies, I would also like to mention research that is in progress at the University of Pittsburgh and elsewhere to explore the relevance of computer simulation and modelling for the initial design and later evaluation of a variety of kinds of large-scale information systems. For example, in my own School, a group of information science faculty have been attempting to design and test a computer-realizable model of an operating library resource-sharing network.[5]

Libraries in many countries of the world are investing an increasing proportion of their available funds in creating resource-sharing networks in hopes that these will prove to be a cost-effective alternative to traditional methods of building collections of books and journals that are exclusively locally-owned. Our hope, through the network simulation project, is to provide library network planners with a reliable design tool that will enable them to predict in advance how adequately a proposed electronically-linked group of libraries will be able to meet pre-specified document-delivery and cost performance criteria.

As significant as these kinds of technology-centered investigations may ultimately prove to be, they do not, in my opinion, represent either the most promising or the most interesting dimension of theoretical or applied information science research. Of far greater importance to librarians, I believe, is the research which centers on the behavioral and cognitive aspects of human information processing - the "man" side, if you will, of the "man-machine" interface. The history of scientific and technical advancement abundantly demonstrates, in my opinion, that behavioral problems are far more complex, far more challenging, and require much more time and effort to resolve than do technological problems. To make my point most directly, history shows that we can often design and build new kinds of machines and devices much more quickly and more easily than we can understand how to use those machines and devices in the most effective way to respond to human needs and to improve the human condition.

The new science of information centers on the study of the user of information. As noted earlier in this paper, we cannot instruct the computer to mimic human information-seeking behavior unless and until we can describe that behavior in a very precise and unambiguous way. Similarly, we cannot develop library collections nor plan library services to meet the informational needs of a clientele, unless and until we are able not

only to specify fully the informational needs of that clientele, but to describe as accurately and precisely as possible how people formulate, pursue and satisfy their informational needs.

What motivates people to read? Which of the several media - print, audio, visual - are most effective in transferring which specific kinds of information? How is information represented and stored in the human memory? How is new information disseminated within the community of scholars in a given discipline? Under what circumstances do out-of-school adults learn new skills most effectively? How can the higher cognitive processes, such as synthesis and evaluation of information, be described with sufficient formal precision that they can be emulated by machines? These, and a host of similar fundamental problems, are only now beginning to be addressed on a large-scale basis, because progress in the behavioral dimension has lagged behind the development and adoption of the new information technologies. Again, however, the relevance to librarianship and library service of progress in both theory and application in the behavioral area must be self-evident to you. As we move from document delivery to effective information transfer as the new social mission of the library, we are obliged to achieve a far deeper understanding of the fundamental nature of human information need in all of its complex and varied dimensions.

A third area of central interest and concern merits at least brief consideration in this overview of the information science field. I refer to the diverse group of problems that may be variously labelled the sociology of information, the economics of information and information law and policy. Many of these are areas in which intensive investigation is currently under way. One of the earliest and most informative reviews of these issues is to be found in the work of the American sociologist

Daniel Bell, whose 1973 book, The Coming of Post-Industrial Society, sets forth a research agenda for a world society that is becoming increasingly centered on the creation and dissemination of information.[6] At least two other enormously influential monographs deserve mention: the report by Simon Nora and Alain Minc to the President of the Republic of France on the social and economic implications of a computerized society and the thoughtful monograph produced by UNESCO's McBride Commission entitled Toward a New World Information Order.[7]

Mention of the McBride Commission's report leads naturally to a consideration of the international dimension of the development of theory and the growth of research in the library and information fields. International and comparative study in library and information science is still far from mature as a scholarly discipline. We lack at present, for example, even enough rigorously prepared descriptive studies to support a conceptual model that could help us to understand which aspects of library organization and service are culture-sensitive, and which are culture-free. We have only fragmentary knowledge or understanding, from a theoretical perspective, of the complex problem of information technology-transfer, especially in its behavioral dimension. The economic and legal aspects of transborder data flow still remain to be systematically studied and explained.

Significant progress has been made, in part as a result of the emergence of information science as a field of systematic, scholarly investigation, in the development of the theoretical base of library and information service. Much of what has been accomplished in recent years has come about through the stimulus of the growing importance of the newer, electronic information technologies. Information science, in its several interrelated dimensions - technological, behavioral, economic and sociological - has important implications for, and direct relevance

to, librarianship. Librarians and information scientists share a mutual concern for achieving a deeper understanding of the fundamental nature of information and of the character of the information transfer process. Information science has much to teach librarianship, and much to learn from librarianship. As information professionals, librarians share with information scientists a mutual responsibility to develop and to address an international research agenda that will systematically advance the future growth of knowledge in the information field.

Bibliography

1. Sager, Donald J. Research Report on the American Public Library, Report no. OCLC/OPR/RR-82/1, Dublin, OH: OCLC Inc., 1982.

2. Debons, Anthony. Information Science: Search for Identity, New York: Dekker, 1974.

3. Bush, Vannevar. "As We May Think," Atlantic Monthly. CLXXVI (July 1945) 101-108.

4. A useful current review is the National Science Foundation's Research Opportunities in Information Science and Technology. NSF 82-63, Washington, DC, 1982.

5. Williams, James G., Flynn, Roger and Nicholas, Robin. "Simulation of Library Resource Sharing Networks," paper presented at the 44th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Information Science, Washington, DC, October 25-30, 1981. (Abstracted in The Information Community: An Alliance for Progress, White Plains, NY: Knowledge Industry Publications, 1981, pp379-380).

6. Bell, Daniel. The Coming of Post-Industrial Society, New York: Basic Books, 1976.

7. Nora, Simon and Minc, Alain. The Computerization of Society: A Report to the President of France, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1981.

International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems, Many Voices; One World, London: Kogan Page, 1980.

IFLA CONFERENCE GENERALE, MUNICH 1983
Division :
Section :
SESSION PLENIERE

28-PLE-3-F

Problèmes et questions de l'usager face aux bibliothèques dans un monde "technicisé"

par le

Professeur Dr. W. KNOPP
Président de la Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz
Berlin, Bundesrepublik Deutschland

For internal use only:
to be brought to meeting no:
. . . 76 . . . . . .
Remarks: SI
to be presented orally [x]
for distribution only [ ]

I.

Tous les états ont, au cours de leur histoire, fondé ou repris à leur charge un réseau d'établissements culturels qu'ils destinent aujourd'hui à l'instruction et à la formation de leurs citoyens. Ils leur apportent aussi tous leurs soins et les considérent comme particulièrement précieux car, à leurs yeux, ces établissements sont le symbole des nations cultivées. Parmi tous les établissements culturels, ce sont assez souvent les théâtres et les salles de concert, mais aussi les musées qui occupent la première place dans l'intérêt du public ; quant aux bibliothèques, elles occupent, depuis de longs siècles, une place importante et cependant méconnue. Dans les pays de culture ancienne, les bibliothèques constituent la base, indispensable du travail scientifique, d'une instruction de haut niveau, de la formation permanente et de l'utilisation du temps de loisir à des fins culturelles. Elles portent pourtant en elles-mêmes leur propre valeur en tant que dépositaires de trésors de l'esprit humain fixés à jamais dans le manuscrit ou l'imprimé ; cette situation est tout particulièrement sensible dans les grandes bibliothèques anciennes, nationales et universitaires du monde, mais elle l'est aussi dans les petites bibliothèques, courageux avant-postes installés à l'autre bout du monde et qui satisfont le besoin culturel des habitants de ces lointaines régions.

C'est en remplissant ses tâches spécifiques que la bibliothèque en tant que telle s'est vue obligée au respect de nombreuses normes, confrontée à des problèmes et à des solutions identiques partout et aussi face à des visiteurs et utilisateurs étrangers qui pouvaient ainsi se retrouver d'une bibliothèque à l'autre en pays de connaissance. Et dans le même temps, la continuité de ses tâches essentielles lui a donné un caractère figé au milieu de toutes les transformations du monde environnant. Elle est soumise à ces inévitables transformations; elle doit se modeler comme toutes les autres institutions sociales.

.../...

Pourtant, pendant des siècles, elle a pu relativement ignorer cet état de choses et c'est ce qu'elle a fait. Il s'est bien sûr produit des transformations dont nous ne voulons pas sous-estimer l'importance : des transformations techniques comme celles nées par exemple de l'invention de l'imprimerie, des postes, du développement des moyens de transport, de la photographie et du téléphone ; des transformations sociologiques comme l'accroissement de la population, de son niveau de vie, de son temps libre ; des transformations politiques comme son émancipation, l'accroissement de son niveau de culture c'est à dire sa capacité accrue d'utiliser les possibilités culturelles offertes. Mais pendant très longtemps, ces transformations ont étonnamment peu modifié l'aspect imprimé aux bibliothèques par leurs activités traditionnelles. La possibilité de prêt à longue distance fut déjà une transformation décisive ; mais quant au reste, dans les années cinquante, les activités des grandes bibliothèques de Heidelberg et d'Oxford, villes dans lesquelles j'étais étudiant à l'époque, se différenciaient fort peu de celles qu'on aurait pu observer cinquante ou même cent ans plus tôt. C'est d'ailleurs un sentiment qui s'imposa très nettement à moi au cours de mon premier semestre de droit quand je tentai, à la bibliothèque universitaire de Heidelberg, de m'y retrouver dans le catalogue jauni par l'âge ; et aussi quand je dus signer la notice d'utilisation de la "Radcliffe camera" à Oxford. Cette notice, selon l'affirmation digne de foi d'un condisciple, remontait au 17è siècle et était restée quasiment inchangée ; elle n'était même pas rédigée en anglais courant.

II.

1.) Cette introduction peut-être un peu trop circonstanciée, et donc ennuyeuse pour les experts que vous êtes, n'a d'autre but que le suivant : souligner l'étendue des transformations auxquelles vous avez été confrontés ces derniers temps,

.../...

tout en gardant à l'esprit, en toile de fonds, la bibliothèque, institution immobile pendant des siècles. La surabondance de ces transformations a fait éclater les procédés traditionnels, ne serait-ce que par la rapidité extrême à laquelle elles se sont produites. Deux ou trois décennies ont suffi pour transformer plus fondamentalement que jamais l'ensemble des problèmes que rencontre le bibliothécaire, aussi bien sur le plan pratique, que sur le plan théorique ; et donc de nouvelles transformations s'ajoutent presque chaque jour aux précédentes. Deux autres facteurs ont en outre accentué l'étendue des transformations dans les bibliothèques : d'une part le nombre des utilisateurs a crû à un rythme explosif. A l'échelle mondiale, se sont combinés l'explosion démographique et des processus d'émancipation comme la décolonisation et la politique culturelle menée par les états. D'autre part, sur un plan national, dans les pays où la population stagnait ou même régressait, la demande culturelle a malgré tout augmentée en même temps que le niveau de vie et le temps de loisir, le besoin de formation permanente et de recyclage.

2.) Bien avant l'augmentation exponentielle des utilisateurs puis ensuite en étroite corrélation avec elle, les ouvrages dignes de figurer dans les bibliothèques ont augmenté. La production imprimée a fait un bond en avant (je pense en fournir la preuve statistique). Il faut en rechercher les causes dans l'accroissement de la demande, l'augmentation des disciplines étudiées, le caractère de plus en plus spécialisé de leur champ d'étude, le nombre de plus en plus élevé des auteurs dignes d'être imprimés ; et pour finir les énormes possibilités des procédés reprographiques se sont développées.

III.

1.) Toutes les transformations dont nous avons parlé ne sont en fait que quantitatives. A elles seules, elles suffiraient à placer nos bibliothèques devant

.../...

des tâches de financement et d'organisation dont l'accomplissement n'aurait pas obligatoirement d'incidence sur la nature même de la bibliothèque en tant qu'institution. Jusqu'à maintenant, on s'était contenté d'attendre de la bibliothèque, bon fonctionnement et efficacité, mais les bouleversements dont nous avons déjà parlé poussent de plus en plus vers l'utilisation des tout derniers procédés techniques qui permettent l'enregistrement et la restitution des textes. Ce sont en fait les exigences nouvelles des utilisateurs qui ont provoqué l'irruption de nouvelles techniques dans les bibliothèques (d'abord dans les grands établissements des pays "riches") modifiant plus profondément qu'aucun autre bouleversement, même technique, ne l'avait fait jusqu' alors, la nature même des bibliothèques. Ce sont en particulier trois grands changements techniques qui ont modifié et continuent à modifier les bibliothèques : les procédés de reprographie, de micrographie, et l'électronique.

2.) Si l'on considère simplement les procés reprographiques : ils modifient déjà l'usage traditionnel qu'on faisait de la bibliothèque : autant que les droits d'auteur le permettent, ils rendent les ouvrages mis à la disposition du lecteur disponibles en totalité ou en partie, dans la quantité choisie, rapidement, et pour une somme modique ; le lecteur peut reproduire puis consulter librement, à l'endroit de son choix. Ceci dispense du prêt des originaux à domicile, ou encore à lointaine distance, et permet à l'utilisateur de déplacer son travail en dehors de la bibliothèque et de le faire chez lui ou dans son lieu de travail habituel : la bibliothèque passe dans cette mesure de lieu du travail scientifique à simple lieu de recherche et de reproduction, et , dans le cas extrême, devient un "salon de reprographie".

3.) La micrographie ajoute à la reprographie des possibilités de réduction et augmente ainsi la quantité d'informations proposées aux lecteurs. Dans un

.../...

deuxième temps, la nécessité d'appareils de lecture a paru forcer le lecteur à revenir dans la bibliothèque pour exploiter les textes reproduits pour son usage, faisant resurgir ainsi l'image traditionnelle de la bibliothèque. Mais maintenant les appareils de lecture sont devenus si bon marché qu'il permettent au même titre que les machines à écrire portatives, l'usage de microfilms ou microfiches à l'endroit de son choix. La bibliothèque est devenue non seulement un "salon de reprographie" mais une "filmshop".

4.) La révolution décisive dans les bibliothèques a eu lieu grâce aux possibilités d'enregistrement et de restitution qu'offre l'électronique moderne. Pour autant qu'il s'agit de saisie et d'interrogation de données, surtout de catalogues et de bibliographies, la révolution réside dans la quantité des informations qu'on peut saisir et la rapidité de la recherche, mais cette révolution est encore maintenue dans certaines limites : l'ordinateur remplace à la manière d'un robot le bibliothécaire ou l'utilisateur. La révolution va beaucoup plus loin quand l'électronique moderne dépasse le stage du renseignement bibliographique pour enregistrer des informations sur le contenu, pouvant être restituées en totalité ou partiellement grâce à un choix de mots typiques. A la limite, une bibliothèque organisée de cette manière se réduit entièrement à une gigantesque banque de données, dont le contenu peut être utilisé à l'endroit de son choix sous forme d'image sur un écran ou de texte imprimé.

IV.

La réalité dans les bibliothèques d'aujourd'hui n'est plus très éloignée de cette situation théorique. Et ne nous leurrons pas : l'évolution marche très vite dans ce sens. Ce n'est pas seulement à cause de la fascination qu'excercent sur l'homme les possibilités de perfectionnement technique ou même le prestige que donnent les efforts de planification et de réalisations concrètes dans ce domaine - déjà la maîtrise de la technologie est presque devenue le symbole

.../...

de l'état de bibliothécaire et les bibliothécaires de mes années d'études devraient se présenter dans de nombreux congrès professionnels contemporains comme des sortes de Rip Van Winkle des bibliothèques. Mais toute plaisanterie mise à part : derrière la puissante tendance qui vise à l'épuisement des nouvelles possibilités techniques, il y a aussi des contraintes pratiques impératives. Les techniques modernes permettent de venir à bout des deux transformations qui ont eu lieu dans les bibliothèques, en l'occurence les deux explosions dont nous avons parlé, celle du nombre des publications, celle du nombre des utilisateurs. Les nouvelles techniques permettent effectivement d'économiser de l'espace et du personnel -l'un et l'autre deviennent de plus en plus onéreux- elles maximisent l'utilisation de la bibliothèque extra-muros ; et par leur garantie de complétude, par leur extension et leur disponibilité, elles facilitent l'utilisation du contenu du document écrit. L'utilisation accrue des nouvelles techniques dans le monde des bibliothèques n'est pas un terrain de jeux pour les bibliothécaires qu'amusent les nouveautés, mais bien l'expression d'impératifs réels. Et pourtant, l'adoption de tels moyens s'avère difficile pour toute une série de raisons financières, institutionnelles, sociologiques et pratiques. C'est pourquoi nous vivrons longtemps dans une époque de transition aussi bien sur un plan national qu'à l'échelle planétaire, époque dans laquelle les procédés traditionnels et même archaïques coexisteront dans les bibliothèques avec les nouveautés alors que tout ce qui est neuf, ou même déjà conventionnel, change si rapidement.

V.

1.) En gardant présentes à l'esprit toutes les transformations dont nous avons parlé, il faut vraiment s'attacher au point suivant : à quoi les utilisateurs de bibliothèques s'attendent-ils, maintenant qu'ils ont à leur disposition ces moyens techniques et quels problèmes, quelles questions ces derniers leur posent-ils ?

.../...

Réfléchir à ce type de question se complique encore du fait que le concept d'utilisateur présente en réalité des intérêts et des besoins très divers. Si l'on veut se montrer réaliste on doit donc raisonner sur des groupes différents ou sur des types d'usagers de bibliothèques ; les intérêts et les problèmes de ces divers types face aux nouvelles techniques sont très différents et peuvent même être partiellement contradictoires. Celui qui, disposant de loisir cherche des informations élémentaires, présente des exigences tout à fait typiques et fort différentes de celles de l'utilisateur qui veut se former à l'exercice d'une profession ou du lecteur venu pour faire de la recherche fondamentale ; ce dernier type comprend lui-même plusieurs groupes : la bibliothèque ne sera pas perçue de la même façon par un scientifique, un technicien, un littéraire ou un sociologue. Au sein des disciplines littéraires, il faut encore faire des distinctions : il faut savoir le rôle que vont jouer les travaux sur les sources ou, pour les juristes, sur des textes qui doivent présenter toutes les garanties de mise à jour et d'exactitude. On doit prendre en considération différents types d'utilisateurs, aussi divers que leurs centre d'intérêt lorsqu'on veut spéculer sur les réactions de l'utilisateur face aux techniques modernes.

2.) De tous temps, l'exigence fondamentale de l'usager des bibliothèques a été la même : dénicher et se faire communiquer les textes dont il a besoin le plus vite, le plus facilement et au coût le plus bas possible. En principe, les nouvelles techniques en usage dans les bibliothèques servent certes à améliorer la rapidité de la communication mais aussi à en rendre l'usage plus commode notamment par l'utilisation de catalogues et de bibliographies automatisées. C'est pourquoi, même si les lecteurs appartiennent à différentes catégories, on partira de l'exigence fondamentale commune à tous les utilisateurs : toutes les possibilités techniques existant à l'heure actuelle doivent être intégralement utilisées pour fournir le meilleur service possible. En ce qui

.../...

concerne la facilité d'accès aux catalogues, les exigences des utilisateurs, quels qu'ils soient, vont dans le même sens : utiliser toutes les possibilités des nouvelles techniques pour produire un catalogue complet et à jour cumulant plusieurs catalogues afin d'offrir en totalité les ouvrages disponibles dans un même pays et à l'échelon international. C'est pourquoi nos bibliothèques peuvent se prévaloir des exigences des utilisateurs pour légitimer l'adoption des moyens techniques les plus récents. Au demeurant, si l'on y regarde de plus près, la réalité offre un tableau beaucoup plus différencié et ce, pour toute une série de raisons. Je vais essayer de clarifier les différences de comportement des utilisateurs face aux nouvelles techniques en passant en revue divers aspects de la question.

VI.

1.) Le progrès de ces nouvelles techniques apporte donc, sans aucun doute, une complication croissante dans l'utilisation de la bibliothèque. Utiliser un catalogue et remplir un bulletin de communication étaient des processus relativement faciles, comparés aux efforts intellectuels qu'exige l'électronique moderne. Dans ces conditions, le service de renseignements prend une toute nouvelle dimension. Devant l'usage croissant de nouveaux procédés techniques, un personnel important sera nécessaire et compensera donc partiellement les compressions de personnel nées de la mécanisation. Il incombe particulièrement au service de renseignements de proposer à chaque lecteur les multiples possibilités d'utilisation, traditionnelles et modernes qui lui conviendront le mieux. Ceci d'autant plus que lors du passage progressif de l'ancienne à la nouvelle technique, cette dernière se développe et évolue constamment. Souvent un simple conseil ne suffira pas et il faudra instituer une véritable formation du lecteur pour que celui-ci arrive à une maîtrise et à une utilisation indépendante des techniques nouvelles. Toutes ces lourdes exigences sont le prix à payer, pour bénéficier des avantages des nouvelles techniques d'uti-

lisation.

2.) Il faut aussi savoir que les systèmes automatisés de bibliothèques sont beaucoup plus facilement sujets à des perturbations que le système traditionnel. D'une part, des perturbations techniques peuvent facilement altérer la qualité des renseignements fournis dans le cas d'une recherche automatisée des documents et surtout, peuvent rendre inutilisable l'exploitation de ces renseignements à des fins scientifiques, sans que l'utilisateur s'en aperçoive immédiatement. Des perturbations techniques ou une panne de courant peuvent même temporairement provoquer un arrêt total de la fourniture des textes stockés. La destruction des textes par intervention criminelle présente, également, dans le domaine de la technique de stockage d'informations, des aspects jusqu'ici inconnus. La bibliothèque du futur doit tenir compte de ces perspectives inquiétantes au moment où elle planifie ses tâches.

3.) D'autre part, un système automatisé est également sujet à des perturbations dans un tout autre domaine : les techniques employées se développent d'une manière anarchique d'une bibliothèque à l'autre. Un établissement peut différer d'un autre tout en ayant un niveau de développement identique ou bien alors les différents systèmes régionaux et nationaux peuvent présenter des niveaux de développement complétement différents. Ici l'utilisateur est en droit d'espérer des efforts de coordination suffisants sous peine d'avoir à payer les progrès réalisés en un lieu précis, par la perte de possibilités de collaboration au niveau international.

4.)Le coût de ces nouvelles techniques constitue un chapitre particulièrement inquiétant. Non seulement leur introduction et leur développement mais aussi leur fonctionnement nécessitent des dépenses considérables alors que l'allégement des coûts obtenu par une économie de locaux et de personnel ne se fait

.../...

sentir que progressivement. Dans une période de difficultés budgétaires à l'échelle mondiale, il est nécessaire d'établir des choix prioritaires quant au développement de nos systèmes de bibliothèques. Du point de vue de l'utilisateur, ce dernier est en droit d'espérer que la perfection technique ne se développera pas aux dépens de l'utilisation pratique et qu'au niveau du choix des investissements, les intérêts des différents groupes d'utilisateurs de bibliothèques seront pris en considération. Il faudra peser le pour et le contre, avant de financer des possibilités de stockage et de consultation, qui serviront surtout aux chercheurs, notamment à ceux des domaines scientifique, médical et technique et qui exigeront toujours les réalisations les plus récentes, sans nuire au financement des besoins des usagers de niveau plus élementaire. Ces derniers sont satisfaits des services traditionnels mais demandent la présence de plusieurs exemplaires d'ouvrages fréquemment demandés et d'ouvrages de référence très chers. Naturellement, lors d'un tel examen, ce n'est pas le nombre qui est décisif, mais plutôt le poids de ces groupes d'utilisateurs dans le développement de l'économie nationale et de la société. La recherche, au sens le plus large, aura toujours une grande importance, sinon la plus grande. Toutefois, la tendance à une perfection technique dans le domaine de la fourniture des documents ne doit pas se faire au détriment du secteur de l'instruction et de l'éducation des citoyens et enfin, il ne faut pas considérer comme tabou le point suivant : ne peut-on pas limiter la perfection technique si besoin est, pour aboutir à des prestations de service équilibrées pour toutes les catégories d'utilisateurs.

5.) En ce qui concerne l'utilisateur, il est bien sûr important d'examiner combien lui coûtera personnellement l'usage des nouveaux appareils. Ceci est indirectement valable pour toute amélioration apportée au fonctionnement de la bibliothèque, qui exige des investissements élevés : car le paiement de l'usager se fait aussi par ses impôts. L'utilisateur est directement touché

.../...

lorsque l'importance des dépenses consacrées aux techniques nouvelles conduit à l'augmentation des prestations de la bibliothèque, soit par l'augmentation des tarifs généraux, soit par le paiement de service particuliers fournis par la bibliothèque : à la limite l'accès à la documentation nécessaire ne serait plus qu'une question d'argent pour l'utilisateur ; chacun s'accorde à rejeter cette éventualité dans l'intérêt de la recherche et de la formation mais le problème existe néanmoins. Les dépenses imposées à chaque utilisateur ont aussi un autre aspect : elles peuvent parvenir à endiguer les abus coûteux que peut provoquer l'utilisation de nouvelles techniques. L'exemple le plus courant est l'usage abusif de la photocopie ; là où auparavant le texte était soigneusement lu ou résumé. L'utilisation analogue de lecteurs de microfiches consomme également de l'électricité et use l'appareil. Ainsi, une telle utilisation si elle n'est pas justifiée, a des conséquences financières tout à fait différentes de celles de la lecture lente d'un livre. Tout cela va contraindre l'utilisateur à une participation aux frais proportionnelle. Evidemment divers tarifs dégressifs sont possibles et plus que nécessaires pour les utilisateurs disposant de petits moyens financiers. On doit avant tout se demander si l'usager ne va pas finalement moins souffrir d'une diminution de la qualité technique des services qu'on lui propose, que des dépenses qu'il sera obligé d'engager face à des moyens techniques très importants.

VII

1.) Tous les problèmes abordés jusqu'ici concernant les nouvelles techniques proposées à l'utilisateur, sont plus ou moins de nature technocratique. D'un tout autre genre sont les problèmes posés par les nouvelles formes d'accès aux textes et donc la nouvelle attitude des utilisateurs à l'égard de ces textes. Grâce aux techniques nouvelles, il est à penser qu'un important aspect de notre

capacité de développement culturel changera de manière radicale.

2.) La nouveauté dans l'accès aux textes, c'est d'abord que, grâce aux possibilités offertes par la photocopie et l'électronique certaines étapes du travail son supprimées, qui auparavant prenaient beaucoup de temps. Mais ces diverses étapes exigeait un savoir-faire qui pouvait contribuer à pénétrer, puis à approfondir notablement le sujet traité. Tout chercheur connaît l'importance des processus de pensée qui accompagnent le choix des textes à copier. Copier un texte permet une première étude critique approfondie qui est souvent supérieure à une simple lecture en ce qu'elle suscite la créativité. Ceci est également valable pour l'élaboration personnelle des bibliographies. Cette élaboration contient indubitablement des éléments créatifs si bien qu'une bibliographie peut très bien refléter la personnalité de l'auteur et sa conception personnelle du sujet traité. L'historien britannque A.J.P. Taylor relate dans ses mémoires qu'un célèbre collègue lui avait dit, avec une certaine suffisance, qu'il l'avait recommandé pour une chaire à Oxford parce qu'il appréciait beaucoup les bibliographies que Taylor donnait dans ses ouvrages. Derrière la suffisance de ces propos, il fallait voir en fait un compliment doublé d'une opinion personnelle sur la valeur des bibliographies en général. Cette partie du travail scientifique peut-être concernée de manière décisive par les techniques modernes qui mécanisent les processus de sélection. Car les nouvelles générations de chercheurs succomberont de plus en plus au pouvoir suggestif des listes fournies par les nouveaux procédés techniques, les considérant comme complètes et exhaustives et ils perdront progressivement la capacité de faire une recherche personnelle et d'effectuer des choix. Cette capacité s'appauvrit encore plus lorsque, grâce aux techniques modernes, la bibliothèque commence à fournir, en plus des données bibliographiques, des extraits ou des citations importantes se rapportant à des thèmes précis ou des mots clés : une partie de plus en plus importante de la recherche personnelle et scientifique, et donc de la responsabilité du chercheur, sera remplacée par un mélange de tra-

.../...

vaux préparatoires dus à des bibliothécaires anonymes et à des machines non moins anonymes. Et au moins dans certains domaines scientifiques, il nous sera impossible d'abandonner les rails tracés par cette évolution. Il est donc d'autant plus important de bien voir le danger de déperissement de la créativité scientifique à cause de cette évolution.

3.) Il est également difficile d'évaluer les conséquences sur la relation entre l'homme et les documents écrits qu'aura le passage des textes sur papier à des textes sur écran. Les textes sur papier, même quand il ne s'agit que d'une utilisation momentanée dans une bibliothèque, sont dans tous les sens du terme "possédés". Leur présence continuelle, leur disponibilité matérielle constante créent une relation intime entre l'utilisateur et le texte, ce qui est une base rassurante pour l'activité critique. Le texte sur écran ne peut procurer la même chose. Certes, il est possible de maintenir l'image de façon continue mais cela représente une exception. En général, l'image reste peu de temps et s'efface en pressant sur un bouton ce qui fait que la relation entre l'utilisateur et le texte n'existe plus. Ce changement important à ce qui sert de substrat au travail aura de profondes conséquences sur les processus selon lesquels la pensée avance et évolue lors de l'étude du texte. Alors que la pensée reposait tranquillement sur un tout qu'elle pouvait saisir chaque fois qu'elle le désirait, elle ne pourra désormais qu'être soumise à des phases rigoureuses et se fixer sur de simples extraits.

4.) En dehors de ces effets sur l'étude des textes, les nouveaux procédés de reproduction vont avoir d'autres conséquences appauvrissantes. La typographie déjà sérieusement touchée, sera remplacée par l'écriture de l'ordinateur ce qui enlévera la part de magie inhérente à beaucoup d'ouvrages. A cause de l'écran, des textes lyriques aussi bien que de belles et coûteuses impressions originales seront mutilés.

Le prix à payer pour garantir le succès des nouvelles techniques est éle
dans bien des cas . Comme nous ne pouvons éviter les contraintes de la
rationalisation, il est de notre devoir de maintenir ce prix aussi bas q
possible et ce faisant, de conserver là où on peut le faire sans inconvé
la communication traditionnelle des documents. Car à quoi cela sert-il d
gagner du temps et de l'espace, d'obtenir un dépeçage parfait de la litt
ture si des capacités scientifiques importantes s'éteignent et que l'âme
beaucoup d'ouvrages meure ?

IFLA 1983

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE MUNICH 1983

Division:

Section:

PLENARY MEETING

41-PLE-4-E

FROM THE WELL TO THE TAP

by

Denis VARLOOT

Director of libraries, musea and
of scientific and technical information

Ministry of Education,

Paris, France

For internal use only:
to be brought to meeting no:
. . . . . 76 . . . . . .
Remarks: SI
to be presented orally ☒
for distribution only ☐

FROM THE WELL TO THE TAP

Slow in my own shadow
I explore the empty darkness with
my hesitant stick
I, who used to imagine Paradise as being
in the form of a library

BORGES "The Doer"
"Poem of the gifts"

Lento en mi sombra, la penumbra hueca
Exploro con el baculo indeciso
Yo, que me figuraba el Paradiso
Bajo la especie de una biblioteca

BORGES "El hacedor"
"Poema de los dones"

I spent a part of my childhood in a little village in Burgundy, where the piping of a spring allowed for the installation of a reservoir and a water supply system from the year of my birth. I have been accustomed to seeing taps on sinks and wash basins in every house. About 15 years ago, I had the opportunity to take on holidays, with my own children, a young orphan who was then 8 years old and had never left l'Ile d'Ouessant where he was born. My wife and I expected to witness the amazement of a child who would be seeing for the first time trains, traffic lights, big shops, even trees; on the island the wind prevented them from growing. Well, all these did not surprise him because he had seen pictures of them at school and in children's books. His amazement came when he discovered the water tap, on the first night in a hotel in Brest, and for two hours he didn't stop playing with the flow of water, laughing and shouting. I realized that day that a familiar object, which I didn't think important because I was so used to it, had, when it became part of everyday life in France, constituted a major technological revolution. Therefore I am very conscious of the joy the people in developing countries will feel when they can at last have the benefit of this major advance in their work and family lives.

I have told this little story because I want to convince you that we must expect, in these methods of access to information which we call primary, changes just as sensational, just as amazing, even if twenty or thirty years later our successors forget the importance of them, because their acceptance in everyday life will be completely taken for granted.

For me, as you'll understand, our existing libraries are wells where you come to draw information, the water of knowledge. Actually, the comparison of libraries, in the state of poverty which numbers of them know today, with wells, is perhaps too attractive. I should, in their case, speak of cisterns, because, alas, unlike wells, the library cannot by itself become full, it depends on the mercy of the heavens ..., patrons or governments.

At the beginning of the 21st century, probably before the year 2010, we shall be living in the Tap Age. Each person, particularly students, teachers, researchers, industrialists, ... will have at his disposal at home and at work the information he needs, up-to-date and immediately available. Then what will be the Tap which will dispense this precious information?

The Marvels of Technology

"A library, a card index, does not think and, even more, does not think in a non-conformist fashion, whereas on the contrary we can ask a computer "to think the unthinkable" to think what has never yet been thought"

Alvin TOFFLER - The Third wave

Of course, it has already been said that only financial obstacles curb technical progress and that it can achieve almost anything. At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology you are shown someone who converses by voice and gestures while a map is projected on to a screen, thus giving, orally or in writing, all the necessary detail about freighters and tankers which are shown on the map he is looking at, by pointing his finger at the relevant ones. The showing of a film, apparently an ordinary cinema film, is modified continusously by the viewer. You participate in a video-conference with colleagues who are thousands of kilometres away, you see them speak on a television screen but their image is not transmitted (for economy a simple telephone line is used); the computer beside you has in its memory the face of the person who is speaking and animates the lips of the image at the sound of the voice. "While computers will not relate to us The Thousand and One Nights with the voice (reconstructed) of Marilyn Monroe, and her face, we are assured that you could equally replay electronically the stars of the cinema of the past ..."It will be necessary to prevent that one day", writes Alain GARRIC in the Magazine Litteraire of April, 1983. Well, in my opinion, we shall not be able to prevent it. But that is the future.

And the present? Let us take some examples: at the Congressional Research Service in Washington, an expert in political and social science produced last year a report on the effects of opinion polls, a much discussed topic in the United States. How did he manage it? Searching a data base for results of opinion polls taken in California, he put on-line a selection of the most significant results which he wanted for his report. This information being directly recoverable on his terminal, he added to this bank of data a text already prepared on his word-processor and merged the newly-received data in the form of a statistical table with his text which he completed and modified immediately. Once the report was finished he took out the record of the treatment of the text and immediately obtained a quick high quality print, readily available on the floor above his office. This document could then be transmitted to its destinations by telecommunication. This is not science fiction, it is something that is happening now; and the Library of Congress which has these facilities is very rapidly developing their use.

Another example: a press agency has just revealed to the world the title of the first non-printed book. A Canadian writer, Burke Campbell, has written in 61 hours 50 minutes, on a computer belonging to the Art and Culture Resource Center of Toronto, a novel of suspense in 20,000 words entitled "The Blind Pharaoh". While he was "writing" the publishers transmitted each chapter to the country-wide network accessible to terminal users. In total, the process of publication took only three hours, and the distribution itself 16 minutes.

Third example, this time imaginary, but also possible - I am transferring, from one area to another, the system used by the Pentagon for making strategic decisions--. I am directly concerned about the effects of a serious parasitic disease, which causes the death of elm trees one after the other in France. Thanks to some keywords, I consult an index which indicates to me that a "computer assisted conference" is "open" on this subject. It commenced in September, 1981. Its title is "Symptoms and remedies for elm disease". It has already been the object of 43 contributions by Messrs. X,Y,Z..., biologists, foresters, arboriculturists and town planners. The last contribution, yesterday at 20.00 hours, was introduced into the system by Professor Dupont, who proposes a new method of treatment. Of course, I can ask to consult, in the set of additional material, only those which interest me and can introduce, in turn, my opinion. Various tools of the "computerized documentary research" type allow me to exploit the information in the most efficient possible way. From this convivial exchange you can equally extract the subjects of a synoptic journal in an "electronic review" regularly put at the disposal of "clients" on line. These last consist of summaries, and thanks to memory boards can decide 'to put up' such and such an article and make it appear on your personal screen. Once again, this is not science fiction. "All those whose objective is consultation are going to escape paper" confirms Gilles de LUZE, the literary director in charge of new media at Larousse, the French publishers.

We are then witnessing a radical transformation in the method of production, of "conservation" (storage, memorising) and of the consumption of information; we are living in a real revolution. Will "the survival of the written word" be "like the mummy" as BATAILLE has written?

In fact, it is very difficult to predict confidently what will happen. The fireworks which are offered to us by the laboratories and the information and telecommunication industries leave us a little bewildered. The technological possibilities today to a great degree go beyond the needs of those who are trying to answer solvable questions. Certainly the cost of the transmission, storage and processing of information is dropping continually but financial obstacles are still very important.

That said, overlooking financial restraints and requests that can be solved, there is not any one response to any need that cannot be met by technology. As Pierre LE LOARER writes "there is not just one future". Gutenberg, when he invented print, certainly did not imagine the consequences of his invention, and Derek de SOLLA PRICE has brought to our attention the fact that Galileo was astonished around 1600, to read books whose authors were still living.

Faced with this situation, three attitudes are possible:

- that of the ignorant or thoughtless, whether naturally unconcerned, or still uneasy, who prefer to follow their own preoccupations, and who say: "this won't come quickly; there is plenty of time; let the enthusiasts get out of breath";

- that of those who resist change, who prefer to adhere to the established position, with its organizations and corporations who are not loth to torpedo new ideas; they are rare;

- that of the foresighted who say: "the first arrivals will take all the seats; will there still be a place for librarians if they drop behind at the start?"

In this last category are the representatives of developing countries who have no reason to resist change, and for whom some possibilities offered by new technology-- I think particularly of telecommunication satellites, which reduce the cost of transmission by overcoming distances -- can at last bring the hope of "universal access to information".

Our worry must be that a growing number of documentation professionals topple from the first to the third attitude. That presumes that they fight against the weight of corporate doctrine as Marshall McLuhan demonstrates by showing to what point the print world has led them, comforted by their impressions favouring homogeneity, the heirarchy, the "boundary".

But as this prophet of future civilization has said "the inventions of automation surround us with new uncertainties".

We are taking part today in the construction of a jigsaw puzzle: on-line information services, micro-computers, numerical storage of images and sounds, full text treatment, electronic publishing ... as soon as the pieces of this jigsaw fit together the qualitative moves are clear. The difficulty consists in assembling the pieces properly and without wasting time. And as nobody can see the design of the jigsaw, as it usually shown on the lid of the box of an actual jigsaw, those who can say what it will be like when it is finished must be very shrewd. However this jigsaw includes traps: for example, you can put together pieces which are not made to go together, and can spend some time before discovering that you are on the wrong track; in addition someone can mix the pieces of several jigsaws. For example, you can be led to put together, mistakenly, a component meant for a wide audience and an installation whose characteristics - or cost - are only suitable for research workers.

As Alvin TOFFLER has written "reality is in a mess".

Before asking ourselves about the expectations of information seekers, we must be aware of the complexity of the large information network which will answer their needs today. Let us try to understand, so as to avoid confirming McLuhan's analysis when he writes: [illegible]
We shall see it as "curioser and curioser" that man has chosen to understand so poorly things into which has has put so much effort", although "during the initial period of assimilation, all the technologies that man invents and succeeds in applying have the power to dull his senses".

It is necessary for us to move away progressively from the image of the water supply system such as was installed in Europe at the beginning of the century, to consider first of all the huge interconnecting systems of today, where you collect below the mountains the water from numerous sources, to make the turbines turn and distribute electricity across the frontiers ... and even under the Channel. This is a point of departure in the analogy of my talk. Two elements still complicate things:

1) a hydro or electric system distributes only one "product"; certainly, in the case of electricity, at fantastic speeds which can cause when there is a fault immediate repercussions over some thousands of kilometres. In a way, a road system or railway line is more like an information network, because it supports innumerable carriages or wagons all the time, each one having its starting point and its destination; but at any time you can stop these vehicles, which is not the case with information in a network of telecommunication where it moves as quickly as an electric current.

Therefore the problems of operational research that the information specialists pose for the mathematicians consist of two levels of difficulty: a very large number of elements to manage, and considerable speed of dispersal.

2) in addition, the concern about drinking fresh water, sorry, of accessing current, pertinent information, implies the notion of choice of information. That is an added unit which must be provided in the network, by including "converters" and "selectors" as Martha E. WILLIAMS has very well demonstrated.

You can think then that the technological revolution we are witnessing will be progressive, will proceed by successive trials confronting needs and new methods just like the great industrial revolution and before the radical changes in the age of Gutenberg. There is only one difference which isn't slight: things today go ten times faster, and each one of us sees them taking place all through our lives.

Now you can better understand why the formula "there is not just one future" is vital. But this is not a reason for fruitlessly keeping up the false argument of those who maintain that "the train has not been killed by the car, nor by the aeroplane" which can be called "optimistic" and "uneasy" when you recall that "the long-playing record killed the 78's".

In all cases, the partial approaches giving the greatest support to customs and traditions and consisting of "retaining" in the "intermediate stages" all types of modern information aids, seem doomed to failure, or at least to a very ephemeral existence, because they only represent a qualitatively ambiguous step: you always manage to have a stock of magnetic sound or video tapes, discs, films, mini-discs, video-discs ... that you make available to visitors. That is only one tenth, to see a hundred percent "revolution" you must go beyond that: we must start from the report that unlike that of the book, the contents of these new "documents" can be instantaneously transmitted to distant places, no matter where or when. That is the real qualitative leap, the tap of information "at all levels", which enables you to avoid all the "storage tanks", that is to say all the intermediary storehouses.

In future, information people will not be either book librarians or record librarians or media librarians, they won't be librarians at all, and will advisedly lose this rôle of "custodian of the treasure" which is not entirely satisfying.

From water which lies to water which runs
From the bit as prisoner to the liberated bit
From print to communication

"At the actual time you make much of books
The books are made up only of words
Words are only of value through their ideas
Ideas have an origin which cannot be expressed in words"

TCHOUANG TSIEU (315 B.C.)

"What are you reading my Lord?
- Words, words, words"

SHAKESPEARE, Hamlet, Act 11, Scene 2)

What then are the enquirers expecting, those who are thirsting for information? That is a good question.

Of course, they notice that the libraries of today are less and less comprehensive, more and more poor, and they begin to understand that this is the result of the volume and cost of information (which actually grows more quickly than the cost of living) ... even if traditionally costs are hidden from them.

Therefore they search elsewhere — in a different way — for current and relevant information to which they have access. Up-to-dateness, relevance, interactive possibilities, these are the three characteristics which I want to stress.

1) Water which lies is often stagnant. Stored information is often no longer valid. Certainly, we must here distinguish between archives and reading. But let us remember the prophecy of Francis BACON, announcing a new theory of knowledge, the end of the tradition of what you know (transmitted through books) and in its place methodical and passionate research of what you don't know ... new beverages! A very large majority of seekers of information lose interest in books or journals more than 5 years old, sometimes even 3 years.

2) Water which is not channelled, handed out on request, can cause floods and drownings. You must know that many of our students, of our young researchers, have much difficulty today in keeping their heads above water when faced with the vast sea of information. LEIBNITZ denounced as early as 1680 "the terrible accumulation of books, which continues to grow, and could do a great deal to put people off the sciences and in fatal despair could make them return to barbarism". Without being quite so pessimistic, consider another cause of growing discouragement for researchers. For two hundred years, "unlimited specialization in scientific disciplines", writes G. GUSDORF, "has resulted in a growing fragmentation of epistemological horizons. Summing up, and to quote CHESTERTON, the scholar who specializes is the one who, by dint of knowing more and more about an object of less and less scope finishes by knowing all about nothing ... Knowledge in crumbs is the work of a crumbled intelligence, and this results in an inbalance which affects the whole personality. This scientific alienation is without doubt one of the causes of the ills of modern civilization". And G. DUSDORF makes an appeal for a true interdisciplinary consciousness, inseparable from as large as possible a presence in the world", with "intellectual generosity", in recommending "a second reading of the scattered data of knowledge, which alone will allow it to be regrouped in mankind, thus avoiding the ruptures and dislocations which affect contemporary civilization".

If I have laboured this point it is because it seemed essential to me to show what I meant by "relevant information": moving away from searching, as is the case most of the time, through sets of subject catalogues, thematic fiches, of branches of disciplines, re-inforcing specializations, it is essential that the vast information system which is being constructed now favours exchanges between disciplines, "cross fertilization" but at the same time avoiding the drowning of the poor researcher. This is not simply desirable. It is essential.

3) Water is rarely pumped backwards through pipes. Here our image is no good at all. Information itself must be able to circulate in both directions. It is the paramount condition necessary for reaching the above objective, that of relevance, and Gerard SALTON was right to develop the concept of "a dynamic library", that is to say the possibility of facilitating the greatest access to collections and useful information through interactive systems. Then especially the possibility of participating in computer-assisted conferences such as the one I described at the beginning of this talk.

No paper.

I am certainly shocking many of my listeners. But it is time to imagine a society without paper. More and more business is conducted by telephone without being followed by a written confirmation -- much more in the United States than in Europe, because our legal traditions provide a very effective restraint --. The problems of authentification will however soon be resolved thanks to the development of memory boards.

Well, can I suggest that you try to do without paper at least for a little while and then say honestly at what moment you missed it! What matters is:

- that the information is always "signed", or at least that you know the address of the originator, the person who transmits it,

- that you can reply or re-act, that is have a way of acting on this information, asking for elucidation, ...

This the book does not allow ... nor does the tape or the magnetic disc that you put on-line ... The cult of these things too often revered today must be fought, these rites -- I am thinking of certain cataloguing rules -- abandoned.

When it is explained to me in certain libraries that old books cannot be consulted because the very fact of opening them will gravely damage their binding, I cannot help thinking of a certain phrase of Victor HUGO: "there are people who have libraries like eunichs have harems".

Librarians are far from being the only ones holding to these mistaken notions. Encyclopaedias which are hardly ever opened sell well, and generally speaking it is more common to pay for a book which you will hardly ever open (because it is a tangible thing that you can touch and feel and caress with your hands or eyes) than information -- interrogation on line for example -- who is interested in that!

The most extreme of these deviations is to be found in photocopying. It is well known that now you don't read any more, you make copies that you collect ... expecting to throw them out sooner or later.

The identification of information with its vehicle is here extreme: the possession of the photocopy is confused with the knowledge you wish to have of its contents.

A comparable phenomenon is beginning to appear with the first use of on-line information. I will call it "the print -out syndrome". Most users of a terminal connected to an on-line data base demand a screen print-out so that they have a record on paper of the actual search even if they have already recorded the references.

In France you are able to observe whenever a videotex is set up, especially for professionals, that the first request of users is for a print-out. Happily the French videotex terminal Minitel did not provide print-outs when it first appeared, and still does not, even today. It has therefore been possible to demonstrate that in the majority of cases the print-out is useless, and that it is always better to consult the data base a second time if you need the same information again (it may have changed in the interim ...).

It is necessary to be very watchful of this "syndrome of the print-out" because it is a sly reappearance of old demons. In order to ease his anxiety, the user is not satisfied by knowing his information, he wants to imprison it.

But new technology is going to shorten information circuits by allowing almost immediate communication between the generator and the user. The print will no more be a by-product, generally provisional in complex electronic systems which will manipulate information in all its varied forms (text, pictures, sound, ...) and for the most varied uses (composition, production, linear reading, highly specific research, distribution, electronic publishing, ...).

The nature of information itself will be profoundly modified. The actual distinction between primary and secondary information will progressively lose its meaning; what use will secondary information have when primary information is immediately available on line and with very good results as that of the data bank of the New York Times, which allows rapid and precise access to primary information itself.

Primary information on line will be the ideal free approach, the one in which a book can be duplicated as often as necessary -- for the reader -- for filing etc. Of what use then is the catalogue?

Briefly, information will be much more mobile, more dynamic, less perennial perhaps.

It is this liberated information which even the readers of today are seeking. And the growing lack of adaptability of traditional libraries to this expectation explains the declining use of libraries, and that in the United states, 60% of subscriptions to scientific and technical journals comes from private readers.

Is this the death of libraries?

"Now and then, it is necessary to burn
the library of Alexandria"

J.L. BORGES (Congress)

" a chest which is too full breaks its lock"

(Italian proverb)

In the story where this quotation appears, J.L. BORGES, who was

Director of the National Library of Argentina, tells the tale of a group of men who wanted to create a Congress representative of all humankind to examine the great problems of the world. They urged that the mission they were performing required having at their disposal a library containing collections of journals, 300 to 400 copies of Don Quixote, university theses, registers, reports and theatre programmes ... But, with time, they realized that this Congress was a prison, a closed world; one day they decided to stop their experiment and symbolically burn their books.

Do not expect from me encouragement to commit your manuscripts to the flames. But reflect along the way, rather than being the "custodians of the treasure" as they are today, librarians becoming instead irrigation specialists, these men who make trees grow, even in the desert.

The information specialists - in the sense of information scientists and systems analysts, and not in the sense of reporters - that we must all become tomorrow will know how to direct, channel and to manipulate information; from the static it will be transformed into the dynamic.

New technology allows you, if you wish it - that is to say, if you decide to make the investment --

1) to find the information you need, appropriate, up-to-date, going beyond the narrow limits of a specialization, each time it is desirable, knowing that tomorrow the information unit will not be the contents of a book or of an article, but simply the idea or the concept: "words are only of value through ideas", said TCHOUANG TSIEU 2,300 years ago

2) to pay only for the information which you need: the use of the memory board will allow each person to pay for his own search of a single data base as easily as you pay for a photocopy today; moreover today the methods of payment are very clumsy, the librarian's job is not to manage accounts and invoices but to help the users to spend less and more appropriately, each person paying for his own information.

And so the vocation of the librarian will be very much enriched, even if his operation is physically removed from the final user (from the Tap) in order to enable him to be at all points of the system and paradoxically making communication possible whereas at present it is locked in watertight compartments. If they wish to do so, librarians can play a key role in coming closer at last to scientific areas which are more and more unaware of what is happenning. They will do so by producing inter-disciplinary tools, tools that the researchers generally neglect themselves, through lack of time. That involves the training of librarians, the provision of schools of information science as F. Wilfrid LANCASTER has reminded us. These new "information consultants" must have"as great a place as possible in the world" as is the wish of G. GUSDORF.

But what of the reading public, you say to me? Certainly I have lost sight of it a little since at the beginning of this talk I told the story of the first non-print book "The Blind Pharaoh". Of course, the radical change that I have described while thinking of scientific and technical information will doubtless be more slow in relation to everyone's daily reading. But do not forget that, especially in France, simple and economical videotex terminals will be set up in every home within a few years; you should be able to consult on their screens not only the catalogue of the expected mobile library -- coming back to the borrowing of a novel for example - but equally guides for dietetics, do-it-yourself and gardening ... without

having to buy a costly encyclopaedia. Even poetry itself will be directly affected, contrary to what the traditionalists think. As a matter of fact, more than other forms of literature, the printed media does not increase its reading public. Whether it is orally (at Mans in the west of France, you can hear a poem, changed every week, by dialling a telephone number) or visually (at Velizy, a Parisian suburb, there is an association of poets who, each equipped with a videotex terminal, exchange their works and their impressions thanks to an electronic mail-box), the use of the networks can here still create an opening and allow very valuable interaction. This allows people who would never have been able to publish their poems to make them known and to obtain the reactions of their neighbours. As Michel FANSTEN writes " word-processors are going to be given new life by the abstract images of authors", just as the composers of contemporary music have revitalized the computer for the synthesis of sounds.

Let us dream for a moment; let us imagine putting together in a small miniature cassette a player for "compact-disc" (12cm in diameter, with a capacity for a book of 150,000 pages) and with an ultra horizontal television screen -- which is being perfected in the laboratores -- exactly the size of a book. What a pleasure to read in bed! No more effort in turning pages; it is only necessary to whisper an order and the incorporated micro-processor recognizes it and carries it out. Do you wish to change your book? The compact-disc is reloaded in a few minutes, by connecting it to "the Tap", to the"plug" of the network. As Michel BUTOR says, we are living " in the twilight of the format of the book, not of reading; on the contrary, the object which is taking shape could incorporate the past so well that we would have the impression of having it still at our disposal".

****

M. Van WESEMAL asked me if, as a telecommunications engineer, I would give you a few warnings as to the "perverse effects" of the technological changes taking place (he was thinking of the destruction of books by photocopiers). You understand that my warnings are not concerned with books, but librarians - and with them publishers/producers. They must know how to set their clocks correctly, and especially not wait for a "deus ex machina" to show them the way. It is up to them to think about it, to reflect upon it together, to make clear their wishes and their needs; it is under these conditions that the "best" jigsaw will be put together. For that they must get rid of their image as "custodians of the treasure", be on the look out for all the experiments taking place throughout the world, exchanging points of view (thanks notably to IFLA) and become specialists in information science.

Denis VARLOOT
ingénieur général des télécommunications
directeur des bibliothèques, des musées
et de l'information scientifique et technique

IFLA 1983

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE MUNICH 1983

Division:

Section:

48 - PLE - 5 - E

Activities of libraries in the developed socialist society in the meeting of readers' needs in conditions of scientific and technical progress

N.S.Kartashov

Director of the State Lenin Library of the USSR

Moscow 1983

For internal use only:
to be brought to meeting no:
. . . . . 76 . . . . . .
Remarks: S1
to be presented orally ☒
for distribution only ☐

Kartashov N.S.

ACTIVITIES OF LIBRARIES IN THE DEVELOPED SOCIALIST SOCIETY IN THE MEETING OF READERS' NEEDS IN CONDITIONS OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL PROGRESS

1. Introduction. Approach to the theme in the light of its social and cultural aspects

It is significant that IFLA, the professional association of library employies from all parts of the world, has now turned to a theme dealing with the library in the contemporary technological world. The Soviet delegation supports and approves this idea. This theme is extremely complex and many-sided and presupposes various approaches to its consideration. Its social and cultural interpretation seems to be most fruitful and realistic as scientific and technical progress has long become a global socio-cultural phenomenon, which is closely bound up with all areas of social life and which reflects them all in this or that way.

Scientific and technical progress reflects itself not only in automation and integration of production or in the turning of science into a productive force, but in the acceleration of cultural progress, the raising of the educational level and the rapid development of communication and information processes. Creating various opportunities for an unprecedented cultural upsurge, scientific and technical progress makes the development of the human personality and the fullest use of the intellectual abilities of man, which he has accui-

MICROFILMED FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

red and developed in the process of labour, communication, cognition and social activity, an indispensable condition for the further advancement of public production. The wider and deeper the effect of scientific and technical progress on different aspects of social life is, the more important and responsible is the role of social and cultural institutions called upon to help the individual to cope with the most difficult intellectual and moral problems, which have appeared as global consequences of scientific and technical progress. All this makes us view the potentials, functions, purposes and tasks of such and important socio-cultural institution as the present-day library in a new light.

MICROFILMED FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

2. Current conceptions of the library

Of the current interpretations of the library, suggested by Western scientists, we would like to point out those that are particularly widely spread. Some of these conceptions are highly pessimistic and come from the irreconcilability of man and scientific and technical progress, from the inability of man to tear himself away from the "demonism of technology". The optimism of others is based on the unjustified belief that technology itself is capable of bringing social progress and the solution of social problems. The absolute role of technology has been most fully expressed by the "prophet of the electronic age", the Canadian scientist McLuhan, who views progress as the extension of the capabilities of human organs, which are complemented by technological instruments. The instruments themselves, according to M.McLuhan, have a life of their own and he endows them with unfathomable and

self-sufficing qualities and potentials. M.McLuhan asserts that the printing press disunited mankind for everybody sat in his own corner reading a book and communication came to an end.

According to M.McLuhan's theory, electronical engineering and electronics brought into being an opposite process, leading people back to tribal unity on a world-wide scale and to direct perception, taking them into the world of emotions and sensual experience[1]. Vision is replaced by hearing, reading by listening and printed characters by the telephone, TV, meetings and conventional forms of personal contacts.

The absolutization of technology, characteristic of many bourgeois concepts of scientific and technical progress, has also found reflection in the conceptions of the library in the present-day technological world for it was precisely the library that first felt the blows that shook the "Gutenberg galaxy". This was followed by prophecies that predicted a "non-paper" and "non-book" age and, consequently, the death of the conventional library.

American researchers F.Lancaster, J.P.Martino, M.Kohen and A.Singleton [2] state that the future belongs to electronic publications and not to printed matter. They say that video-discs will fully substitute books and that the library, brought to its logical extremity, will become fully incorporeal and

1) McLuhan, M.Gutenberg galaxy. The making of typographic man. - Toronto, 1967. - 293 p.

2) See International forum on information and documentation, 1982, October, v.7, No.4, p.20-25.

MICROFILMED FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

conventional libraries will turn into archives. Of course, this viewpoint is not shared by all, but the criticism of such forecasts is significant. These predictions are declared to be unrealizable because of the lack of technical means of moderate price, and the necessary financial support of electronic information carriers that substitute the book. This situation is attributed to the conservatism of people, who are used to the book and paper[1]. Criticism of this kind, as the situation itself that is being criticized, reveal their technocratic origin because the library is viewed here from a purely pragmatic standpoint as an auxiliary technical means, serving science and technology and not as a social and cultureal institution, the keeper and advocate of mankind's achievements, which first of all caters to the cultural needs of the individual and supports the aim of his all-round development.

MICROFILMED FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Usually no constructive solutions of problems of contemporary library development are suggested and the role and functions of the library in the world of today are not interpreted within the route of technocratic thinking. Moreover, it is sometimes directly asserted that all conventional problems of librarianship will disappear by themselves and that the librarian and the actively reading individual will become unnecessary.

Examining these problems, Soviet library science reached the following indisputable conclusion: of course, the library being a mobile, dynamic system must change and adapt itself to

---

1) See International forum on information and documentation, 1982, October, vol.7, No.4, p.20-25.

the constant change of demands and potentials, but never and in no conditions does it lose the main purpose it serves.

Cardinal changes of libraries are connected with their qualitative transformation and the ability to cope with the demands of tomorrow and not with their technical equipment. And tomorrow spells not only the quantitative growth of information and the emergence of new technical means for its gathering, storage and processing, the future spells the transformation of knowledge, its character and inner content. Knowledge now has an individual, concrete address and this is why information should not be only uniform or typical, but concrete, creative, purposeful and dynamic.

And though the library performs the function of the social memory and is directly connected with information storage, it should not, however, become an institution of yesterday, archaic and immune to all changes. It is, therefore, very important to get rid of the idea that the role of libraries is a passive one, that is still spread among specialists[1].

The idea concerning the auxiliary role of libraries is not always expressed in the form of complete concepts, sometimes it appears in the wording of demands made of the library of the kind: "the library should meet the requirements of economics", and 'support industry", etc. To my thinking it would be more correct to speak not of the library's conformity with various demands, but of the determination and formation of these demands.

---

1) Comp. "Biblioteka-arkhiv, khraniashchiy literaturnye dokumenty" - Menu N. Evolutsiya protsessa, peredachi znaniy ot individual'nogo ispolzofaniya do massovogo proizvodstva. - In: Teoreticheskiye problemy informatiki. M., 1968, p.164.

MICROFILMED FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Going from the ever growing and changing role of knowledge in technologically developed society, it can be asserted that the library is called upon not only to store information, but to also select, analyse, process, synthesize and organize it. As a result of such activity the volume of stored information can appreciably increase. That is why doubts to the effect that libraries will not be able to cope "with the avalanche of information" and "book Himalayas" and so on, seem to be tactless.

If we view a library within a concrete social context, we will see that many processes, that take place in "great" society, are mirrored in the functional aspect of the library. Thus integration of knowledge (that takes place simultaneously with its differentiation), the integration of scientific disciplines finds reflection in the integration of libraries. The demand for scientific literature in contiguous subject fields is continually increasing: nearly 80% of researchers and specialists in our country use both universal and specialized libraries.

MICROFILMED FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

The inclusion of the library into the social context makes it possible to see its connections with other social institutions.

Libraries, public libraries in particular, apart from performing their main functions of increasing the necessary volume of knowledge, "promote continual education and the improvement of professional skills, which are necessary in the world of new developments and rapid changes". The World Book Congress, which took place in London in June 1982, suggested that this role of libraries be expanded so that libraries could be used in the capacity of centres of propaganda of

reading and the training of library users[1]. In conditions of a technologically developed world the mastering of knowledge becomes a condition and means of forming the personality, a special level of thinking, its flexibility and ability of adaptation in a constantly changing world of scientific and technological developments, in the ever widening flow of information.

Nevertheless, the functions of the library of the future are not limited to the formation of a new type of thinking, the library must also support training and the improvement of moral qualities of the individual. Scientific and technical progress has expanded the opportunities of the individual, his abilities to change the world and nature and all this heightens the level of demands made of man, his ethic and psychological reliability. The library, the keeper of all the highest achievements of human intellect, will, as before, play a leading role in putting within the reach of people not only scientific values, but values of art and literature. This is precisely why the disappearance of the book is impossible. That is precisely why the instructive functions of the library are not only not being abolished, but are being constantly developed. The library must with the help of books educate people in the spirit of humanism and elevated spirituality. The reader of today has changed greatly, he has become active and selective in his needs, but, as before, or, maybe, even more than before, he needs communion with the book. In our continually changing world, in the staggering flow of information, in circumstances of complicated emotional and intellectual stressses, contemporary man more and more frequently

1) See. World Book Congress. - London, June 7-11, 1982. Part II. Targets for the 80s. Unesco.

MICROFILMED FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

turns to traditions and values, which give him a reliable foundation and the sense of belonging to the general experience of mankind and the live connection with the past and present of mankind. The library can and must satisfy these needs of contemporary man and continue to be the place, where people communicate with the book, in this way performing a humanistic and compensatory function in the world of today.

The library also gives the individual the opportunity to develop direct and informal professional and human contacts that are so necessary for the satisfaction of the present-day need in communication.

The library of the epoch of scientific and technical progress is not identified only with contemporary, comfortable buildings, equipped with modern technique and using the most effective and compact methods of information storage. Other social functions of libraries, existing in a technologically developed society, include the establishment of other relations with the reader. Firstly, the library should be oriented not only towards the satisfaction of present-day demands of readers, but of demands of the readers of tomorrow. Secondly, in these relations the reader plays a new, more active role: he carries out an active and selective search of information, stimulating the activities of the library and orienting it towards the demands of a changing society.

MICROFILMED FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

3. The Soviet library as an active factor of scientific and technical progress and active participant of the society of developed socialism

The solution of current problems of the library is possible when achievements of scientific and technical progress are combined with a just and humane social order. We are convinced that it is precisely the society of realistic socialism that offers such opportunities. The following statement was made by the leader of our party Y.V.Andropov: "It is precisely socialism that removes age-old barriers, which divide labour and culture... It puts the achievements of science and technology, literature and art within the reach of the working people and ensures the social recognition of the creative activity of intellectuals"[1].

In conditions of expanding intellectualization of labour, the growing social and creative activities of the individual, the strengthening of the homogeneity of the socialist society, the further improvement of all social institutions, including libraries, which have become an important factor of social changes, is necessary and possible. Our confidence is supported by the experience of librarianship in the USSR, which managed, within a short period of time, to reach the front-line on a world-wide scale.

The main result of library development in the years of Soviet power is that a new socialist system of library and

1) Andropov Y.V. The teaching of Karl Marx and some questions of socialist development in the USSR. - Kommunist, 1983, No.3, p.217.

MICROFILMED FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

bibliographical support of the population, science and production was developed in our country on the basis of Lenin's principles. One of its principal characteristics is its class/party character, availability to all and democratism, which finds expression in the existence of a very broad library network, which is distributed according to class.

Today the Soviet Union possesses an enormous library/information potential. There are 330 thous. libraries of different types in our country; their total collections run to 4.7 billion volumes. This achievement is especially impressive as the Soviet socialist state inherited from tsarism a low cultural level of the working masses. In pre-revolutionary Russia over 70% of the population were illiterate and many nationalities did not have their own written language. In the USSR access of the multinational population of all Union and autonomous, autonomous regions and territories to public book collections is now a reality and this development is in accordance with V.I.Lenin's behest "To give the people all the necessary classics of world literature, contemporary science and technology"[1]. And today we have at our disposal the concrete results of our socially significant activity - all libraries of our country serve 220 mill. readers and lend them 5 billion units of printed matter in more than 247 languages of the USSR and foreign countries.

Currently, when all groups of contemporary society are faced with the problem of how to spend their leisure time, on which TV, cinema, sports, etc. put in a claim, reading in the

---

1) V.I.Lenin. Complete works, v.42, p. 332.

MICROFILMED FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

USSR is among the leading leisure occupations. Thus, according to the data of sociological studies, conducted by the State Lenin Library of the USSR, the most important trends in the sphere of reading are the following:

1. Reading spread to a greater extent in the 70s - approximately 90% of the adult population read newspapers and 80% read books.
2. Increase of demand for scientific and technical literature. The necessity of constantly improving professional skills, brought about by scientific and technical progress, leads to the increase of people, who read technical and scientific literature. 77% of workers and 79% of specialists use the information that they draw from special literature in their work.

In public libraries 50% of readers, i.e. 80 mill., use literature in various subject fields (excluding socio-political literature). In other words, in conditions of scientific and technological progress reading activity develops both for educational and professional purposes.

3. Improvement of the structure of reading - 41% of users of public libraries read fiction, socio-political books and literature in other branches of science. Interest in socio-political literature has particularly grown and today 63% of readers turn to it.

The distinctive feature of current activities of Soviet libraries is that their association with tasks, being solved by labour collectives, is becoming stronger every day. In libraries this tendency finds expression in the increasing number of books on economics, foreign policy and struggle for peace, the most important aspects of scientific and technological

MICROFILMED FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

progress and its impact upon industry and agriculture, that are being issued to readers.

The features characteristic of Soviet libraries are connected with the processes, which are taking place in our country in the last decades. We have in mind here the acceleration of cultural progress, urbanization, intellectualization of labour and the raising of the educational level, the changes wrought in the social structure of society.

The increase of the urban population and the rise of the educational level lead to the formation of a socially active personality, to a more intensive and conceptual participation of the individual in intellectual production. Increasing social mobility helps to wipe out social differences between classes and promotes the reinforcement of social homogeneity of Soviet society. At the same time, as it was pointed out at the 25 Congress of the CPSU, the rapprochement of classes is an objective process but by no means is it a spontaneous one. Many social institutions, including libraries, participate in the management of such processes. It was in these conditions that the contemporary Soviet reader formed; he is an active member of society, his general educational and cultural level is high and is, to a great extent, the result of his habit of reading books regularly.

MICROFILMED FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

The Soviet reader's search for information is active and selective and he influences the activities of the library, orienting it towards the demands of a changing society. It is precisely these new information demands that become the main factor, which stimulates the process of development of the library in conditions of scientific and technological progress.

In connection with the acceleration of progress, processes of integration of science and production, the transformation of science into a direct productive force, and the growing role of socialist culture, profound changes are being wrought in the structure of needs. Foremostly in these changes pertains the impressive increase of information needs, as a part of intellectual needs in general.

The complex programme of socio-psychological studies "Books and reading in the life of Soviet society", which is being realized in stages since the mid 60s, and a permanently functioning service of statistical and sociological information (the study "Dynamics of reading and readers' demand in public libraries") make it possible to follow the changes in information needs and their essential characteristics.

Currently the most important feature of information needs is the combination of highly specialized and broad complex themes. Moreover, the complex character of information needs, which integrate knowledge in the field of natural sciences and technology and understanding of the laws of social development, gains leading importance in contemporary conditions. The appearance of such a complex socio-psychological phenomenon as collective information needs, brought about by the growing sophistication of scientific/technological problems, which are being solved by large research collectives, is a sign of the times.

Complex and collective information needs cannot be satisfied by any single library. That is why in our society, where the accumulation and organization of information use lends itself to scientific and deliberate influence, the processes of library integration are expanded on a planned basis.

MICROFILMED FROM
BEST AVAILABLE COPY

The growing variety and complex character of inter-library relations gradually take on such a stable character, that they form a certain integral unity of libraries, which can pool and coordinate their resources.

Current scientific and technological developments such as TV and teletype systems, new high-speed means of transport and new computerized systems of gathering, storing and processing of information offer wide opportunities for library cooperation.

An important feature of current activities of Soviet libraries is that they are organically connected with the vital problems of socio-economic and scientific/technical development.

In present conditions libraries of the country and information bodies, with which libraries integrate their activities more and more, are now assigned tasks that in many things change conventional ideas on the potentials and the range of activities of libraries. I further list some of these tasks, that arise from basic State documents. The raising of the effectiveness of information activities of libraries in present-day conditions is directly connected with the task of transition from information service of readers to information support of fundamental and applied collective scientific research.

Together with leading scientific bodies of the country scientific, special and technical libraries participate in the creation of complex systems of information support of approximately 200 specialized complex programmes, which solve the most important problems in the fields of science and tech-

MICROFILMED FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

nology, included in the State plan for social and economic development for the period up to 1990. Thus a subject-oriented system of information support of the important complex programme "Siberia" is being created in the State Public Library for Science and Technology of the Siberian Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

The connection of the Soviet library with tasks of labour collectives is becoming organic. The main aspects of this work are realized in close cooperation with Houses of Science and Technology, divisions of the Scientific and Technological Society and the All-Union Society of Inventors and Rationalizers.

The contribution of libraries into the realization of social plans of development of certain regions is becoming more impressive. This work is carried out particularly diversely in the Non-Black Earth Zone of the RSFSR, regions of development of gas and oil deposits of West Siberia, and industrial complex plants on the Yenisei River, South Yakutia, the Baikal-Amur Railway and new building enterprises of Middle Asia and Kazakhstan.

The orientation of information activities of libraries towards priority specialized support of major scientific and social aspects calls for the integration of library and information methods of work, for their qualitative transformation. The result of this integration is identified with the process of transition from a passive form of service to one that is initiative, from formal bibliographical support to an analytico-synthetic level of information support. The development

MICROFILMED FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

of current information support with an eye for the future is also one of these developments. Integration processes in science and industry put the problem of creation of a more rational and effective form of following publications, that fall into the information "leakage field" or stand on the junction of sciences, into the foreground. Hence - the search for new types of bibliographical aids, the appearance of such aids concerning interdisciplinary and complex problems, the active process of cooperation of libraries of different types in information support of specialists in various fields, the raising of the role of collections and reference services of universal public libraries as of a basis for the satisfaction of users' demands for documents and information on adjacent disciplines, etc. The transport of knowledge among scientific disciplines and branches of industry with the aim of helping the solution of urgent complex scientific and practical programmes is becoming the main target of the activities of universal public libraries in conditions of scientific and technological progress.

The expansion of the dimensions of scientific activity in the sphere of science, the rapid increase and renewal of the flow of special literature, and industrialization of science, with objective necessity strengthen the function of analytic character in information activities of libraries. Contemporary researchers and specialists need information, based on the "formula of novelty", which contains data not on all publications, but only references dealing with new facts, phenomena, processes, that the publication carries. Today the bringing of new objective knowledge to the user through information analy-

MICROFILMED FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

sis of the content of odd original sources is becoming a highly important aspect. In these conditions it is particularly important to establish the potentials of libraries in the building up of factographic data files and to correctly determine the place and role of information activities of libraries in new structural units of the STI system, such as information analysis centres.

Going by the organizational experience of practical integration of forms and methods of library/bibliographical services and information bodies we are convinced that these problems will be positively solved. The unique information centre - the Institute for Social Science Information of the USSR Academy of Sciences grew out of the Fundamental Library for Social Sciences, which had long-standing traditions of information support of scholars in the field of social science. It is the first experiment of full integration of information and library activities both in our country and abroad. The results include a uniform system of building up collections, one-time processing of large flows of primary information, intensive use of literature both for information purposes and the library service of readers. The organization of an information centre for problems of culture and art within the State Lenin Library of the USSR was a logical organizational development in keeping with the traditions of the national library in information activity in the field of the humanities. The Library's readiness for acceleration of this work, its universal collections and reference service, (the basis of information support of the complex sphere of scientific, creative and practical

MICROFILMED FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

activities, united in the concept "culture"), all made this centre one of the best specialized information services in the country.

The increase in the flow of primary sources, the growing complexity of working with it, evoked by growing demands made of information support of complex scientific problems, which are solved through collective efforts of representatives of different sciences, called for changes in the conventional technology of library and information processes.

For the automation of acquisition and cataloguing of literature, the preparation of union catalogues, etc., computers and other technical means are now being widely used in Soviet libraries. Automated systems, which make it possible to create machine-readable bibliographical files, which are widely used for the retrieval of information in the "question-answer" mode, integral information systems with multi-aspect analytical/synthetic processing of information are being introduced in many libraries. The introduction of automation into conventional library practice exposed a number of new problems, which include the following: establishment of the most perspective "zones of usage" for machine and conventional bibliographical retrieval, raising of the quality of conventional bibliographical publications, expansion of means of computerized bibliographical retrieval on the basis of a rational combination of computerized and conventional means.

The integration of activities of libraries and information bodies of the country, which solve problems of social and scientific and technological progress together, is accompanied by active work in the field unification and standardization of

MICROFILMED FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

the main common processes, terms and concepts pertaining to librarianship, documentation and information. In the USSR a uniform complex programme for standardization in the field of librarianship, information and publishing (SIBID), which has already prepared over 70 standards has been created.

In conditions, when the social role of libraries in the Soviet Union grows, a number of measures for the improvement of the system of management and organization of library activities were taken. With the help of interdepartmental unions, created on all levels (from a rural district to the country as a whole) wider coordination and cooperation of libraries, belonging to different departments, is reached. This makes it possible to overcome autarky of certain libraries and permits the working out of a uniform policy and principles, and unite efforts for the solution of urgent problems. The strengthening of these tendencies favoured the development and approval by the State of the documents "Main trends of development of librarianship for 1981-1985 and up to 1990", summary plans for the coordination of scientific, methodological, research and bibliographical activities of libraries belonging to different departments, the mapping out of the draft of "Principal propositions concerning librarianship in the USSR", our Soviet library law, which will be approved by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

The orientation of activities of the Soviet library towards priority information support of the most important State and social problems, concretization of aims and tasks of libraries in the society of developed socialism creates favourab-

MICROFILMED FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

le conditions not only for a more rational, economic and effective use of library resources, but for the correct determination of trends of future development and the improvement of activities of libraries as of the most important social and cultural institutions of the epoch of scientific and technical progress.

4. Conclusion

Speaking of the library of the epoch of scientific and technical progress we should particularly emphasize that no changes wrought in libraries, connected with the introduction of different scientific and technical novelties, cannot abolish the active role of man in the gathering, accumulation and dissemination of information. This is why I think it necessary to dwell upon the role of the librarian in a changing library, in a changing world in this conclusion. It is evident that the trends of library development described here will, without doubt, affect the character, content and qualitative characteristics of the librarian's work. The turning of libraries into centres of information support of urgent scientific and technical problems substantially changes the professional orientation of the librarian.

How does the function of the librarian change in the present-day library? What determines the character of his professional training? Are the forecasts suggesting the deinstitutialization of the librarian, his leaving the framework of the library well-grounded? What will the library worker of the future be: a librarian, researcher or an information officer? In our opinion all these questions call for a serious and

MICROFILMED FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

manysided discussion. They are urgent and play an important role in the decision of the fate of libraries and, therefore, deserve to be discussed at one of the IFLA sessions. We think it feasible to suggest to IFLA the following theme for an international study "Librarian of the epoch of scientific and technical progress".

MICROFILMED FROM
BEST AVAILABLE COPY

IFLA 1983

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE MUNICH 1983

Division: Libraries Serving the General Public

Section:

93 - GENPU - 1 - E

Reports from the Sections and Round Tables belonging to the Division

For internal use only:
to be brought to meeting no.:
.....85.....SI.....
to be presented orally ☒
for distribution only ☒

International Federation
of Library Associations and Institutions
Fédération Internationale des
Associations de Bibliothécaires et des Bibliothèques
Internationaler Verband
der bibliothekarischen Vereine und Institutionen
Международная Федерация
Библиотечных Ассоциаций и Учреждений

CHILDREN'S
LIBRARIES
SECTION

Current publications

Colin Ray is preparing a new version of Library Service to Children, adding to the countries already represented some developing countries, and filling up involuntary gaps of the last edition, concerning Sweden for insta

Books for the mentally handicapped. The camera ready copy is being prepared at the Library School of Norway, under the supervision of Inger Spangen ; it is likely to be soon published.

Proceedings of the Leipzig Seminar. Sigrun Hannesdottir and Geneviève Patte are preparing this edition but it will not be ready within the planned delay : on the one hand English and French texts must be assembled, on the other hand a brief summary must be given for each important contribution in French.

Collaboration with other international organizations

ATD-Fourth World organized near Paris their first European conference on children's libraries and deprived children. The resolutions and a summary have been published in the last Newsletter (n° 21, January 1983). The entire report may be asked to Geneviève Patte.

UNESCO. As a follow up of the Leipzig Seminar, the officers of the Section proposed to G. Van Wesemael a project which could be supported by Unesco for the setting up of workshops on creative writing and publishing of children's books in developing regions; the project could be carried on in close collaborati with IBBY and the Publishers International Association. It is just a proposal.

CIDA and Zimbabwe. Cida decided to support the home libraries project presented by Ellen Waungana, from Zimbabwe. Technical difficulties have as yet prevented an immediate help.

Munich

The Children's Libraries Section will propose a debate on the project "Education and training of children's librarians", presented by E. Glistrup. The questionnaire has been sent to a number of schools of librarianship before May 1983. The group expects to have enough elements "to draw different usable models suggesting how to place children's librarianship teaching in the whole context of the library school as well as of the universities."

At a meeting on the Section two speakers will give a contribution on video, children and the library : Emma Cohn's contribution will be more oriented on adolescents ; the other one will be by a Swedish librarian (name to be known later).

The Audio-visual Round Table, the School Libraries Section, the Children's Libraries Section will hold a joint meeting. The Children's Libraries Section proposes Fatimata Sylla who shall speak on her experience with micro computers in developing countries in connection with reading training.

International Federation
of Library Associations and Institutions
Fédération Internationale des
Associations de Bibliothécaires et des Bibliothèques
Internationaler Verband
der bibliothekarischen Vereine und Institutionen
Международная Федерация
Библиотечных Ассоциаций и Учреждений

Bruce E. Massis, Chairman
IFLA Section of Libraries
for the Blind
c/o J.G.B. CASSETTE LIBRARY
15 W. 65 ST.
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10023

May 9, 1983

Johannes Daugbjerg
The Danish Library Association
Trekronergade 15
DK-2500
Valby
Denmark

Dear Johannes;

I hope you are well. The following is the "Future Activity Report" submitted for presentation at the sections presentation meeting in Munich.

SECTION OF LIBRARIES FOR THE BLIND
FUTURE ACTIVITY REPORT (IFLA '83)

1) A meeting will be held during the Munich Conference that will include members of the Section, representatives of the IFLA Executive, representatives of UNESCO and the president of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The talks will center around the practical problems encountered by libraries for the blind with regard to copyright. A document drawn from remarks by many member nations will be presented as representative of the common copyright problems endemic to libraries for the blind.

2) The upcoming year will see the publication of a book detailing Standards for Libraries for the Blind. Currently in its final stages of preparation, this document can be used by libraries for the blind worldwide (with local modifications, of course) to establish a standard in this area resulting in higher quality service to the disabled patron.

3) Also to be published will be the Guidebook for Developing Braille and Talking Book service being developed in the United States with partial funding from UNESCO.

4) Papers and Proceedings statements presented at the section-sponsored "Expert Meeting of Libraries f/t Blind",held in Marburg F.R.G. prior to the Munich congress,will be made available through IFLA in the coming year.

5) A Tactile Map Depository, being established in Holland will be operational during the year. An annual of holdings will be published in the United States by the National Library Service.

6) A package of changes will be submitted to the International Postal Union, in Berne, Switzerland, by our section in the coming year. Included in this package will be a set of International Postal Rules governing materials for the blind, an internationally accepted logo,

International Federation
of Library Associations and Institutions
Fédération Internationale des
Associations de Bibliothécaires et des Bibliothèques
Internationaler Verband
der bibliothekarischen Vereine und Institutionen
Международная Федерация
Библиотечных Ассоциаций и Учреждений

Bruce E. Massis, Chairman
IFLA Section of Libraries
for the Blind
c/o J.G.B. CASSETTE LIBRARY
15 W. 65 ST.
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10023

FUTURE ACTIVITY REPORT (Cont'd).

and an internationally accepted name. Our aim is to standardize the manner in which materials for the blind are handled by the world's postal services.

7) As a new section in IFLA we expect our membership to increase as the year progresses to include libraries for the blind from all interested nations.

8) Also to be published: An international Survey of Braille music organizations, in conjunction with the International Association of Music Libraries (IAML).

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce E. Massis
CHAIRMAN IFLA SECTION OF LIBRARIES
F/T BLIND

International Federation
of Library Associations and Institutions
Fédération Internationale des
Associations de Bibliothécaires et des Bibliothèques
Internationaler Verband
der bibliothekarischen Vereine und Institutionen
Международная Федерация
Библиотечных Ассоциаций и Учреждений

MICROFILMED FROM
BEST AVAILABLE COPY

IFLA

SECTION OF LIBRARY SERVICES
TO HOSPITAL PATIENTS AND
HANDICAPPED READERS

REPORT 1982/83

In November 1982 a News Bulletin was circulated to Section members - it included details of the papers presented at the Section's meetings in Montreal and other news items.

Both members of the Organising Committee and delegates have reported on the success of the Section's 'International Course on Library Services to Hospital Patients and Disabled People' which was held in Stockholm, Sweden, In September 1982. It is hoped that it will be possible to publish the proceedings of the Course in the IFLA Occasional Papers' series.

Two of the Section's projects are nearing completion - the final draft of the pamphlet 'Books for the Mentally Handicapped' was approved by the respecti e Standing Committees in Montreal. The Section of Childrens Libraries plan to publish the pamphlet in the IFLA Occasional Papers' series as soon as possible. During the year work has continued on the revision of the 'International Guidelines for Hospital Libraries and Services to Handicapped People in the Community'. The Chairman of the Working Group, Mrs J. Clarke, completed editing of the document which she then circulated to Working Group members and which they have now approved. The document will now be sent to the Standing Committee meeting at Munich for final approval.

The Chairman of the Section was pleased to note in January 1983 that the Round Table of Libraries for the Blind had become the Section of Libraries for the Blind. Good wishes were sent to the new Section for success in their future work. Because of the formation of this new Section, four of our Standing Committee members have transferred to the new Section, but three new members have been elected to our Standing Committee, two from France (Mme.A.Doussan & Mme. [illegible]. Rappaport) and one from the United Kingdom (W.Anderson). The Chairman and Secretary attended a meeting of the Coordinating Board in Paris on the 28th February 1983. The role of the new Section, budgets and future programmes were among the items discussed.

The IFLA Professional Board has given approval for the setting up of a Working Group to identify the Library needs of the deaf; it is hoped this new Group will be a forum for discussion for those providing library services to the deaf. The Group will hold its first meeting during the Munich Conference when terms of reference will be drawn up. Some preliminary work has been done and a literature search on the relevant material has already been completed.

It was not possible to arrange a meeting of the Standing Committee during the year, but work has continued by correspondence.

4(9) Phyllis Noaks. 131

Phyllis Noaks, Chairman.

International Federation
of Library Associations and Institutions
Fédération Internationale des
Associations de Bibliothécaires et des Bibliothèques
Internationaler Verband
der bibliothekarischen Vereine und Institutionen
Международная Федерация
Библиотечных Ассоциаций и Учреждений

Johannes Daugbjerg, Chairman
Flemming Ettrup, Secretary and Treasurer
The Danish Library Association
Trekronergade 15
DK-2500 Valby, Denmark
Phone: *45 1 30 86 82
Telex: 16515 danbi dk

Report for

Open Divisional Meeting, Monday 22nd Aug. at 8.00.

SECTION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The Standing Committee of the Section met in Potsdam, GDR, on the 18th February, mainly to discuss budget requests for 1984.
Final decisions were taken as regards the programme of the Section during the Munich conference in August 1983. The question of elections to the Standing Committee in 1983 was also on the agenda.
The Section Newsletter was issued in March 1983, containing information on nomination procedures, conference programme in Munich, and minutes of Standing Committee meetings.

After the 1983-election, the Standing Committee has the following composition:

M. L'Abbate Widmann, Italy; M. Akbulut, Turkey; F. Andrae, FRG; M. Brooking Negraõ, Brazil; E. M. Broome, UK; J. Daugbjerg, Denmark; G. Dillsworth, Sierra Leone; C. E. de Garcia Moreno, Mexico; J. B. Glistrup, Denmark; J. Kohout, CSSR; H. Mozes, Netherlands; I. Papp, Hungary; T. Saglamtunç, Turkey; P. Sanz, France; I. Schumann, GDR; V. V. Serov, USSR; P. Sullivan, USA; M. Törngren, Sweden; S. Wallis, South Africa.

The Section's Working Groups:

a. on Ethnic and Linguistic Minorities. The WG has started a newsletter service, available through Michael Foster, Commonwealth Institute, London. Final report of the WG will be presented in Munich. After the conference, the WG will acquire status as an IFLA Round Table in order to continue its efforts to improve library service to minorities on a permanent basis.
b. on Models for User Research. The WG has been trying out its questionnaire in Holland, Hungary, the Philippines and Turkey. Final report of the WG will be submitted to UNESCO after a WG-meeting in Munich.
c. on the Impact of Information Technology upon Libraries Serving the General Public. The WG has held a 2-day meeting in June. The group meets in Munich, after which a preliminary report is submitted to the SC. Final report is scheduled for publication after Nairobi 1984.
d. on Standards for Public Libraries. The WG is established with Arthur Jones, UK, as coordinator. All bodies of the Division have representatives on the WG, or will be consulted. The group has corresponding members from the public library field.

The Section will be involved in the Pre-Session Seminar in Mombasa prior to the 1984-conference. E. M. Broome, UK, is the Section's representative on the planning committee. The steering bodies of IFLA have decided that it is mandatory to have a Pre-Session Seminar when IFLA's conference is held on the African continent for the first time, so the committee has been set to work, regardless of the present uncertainty as regards the funding of the seminar.

In 1985, where IFLA is obtaining UNESCO-support for a Pre-Session Seminar, the Section will be responsible for the seminar in the U.S. A working party, chaired by Peggy Sullivan, USA, has been set up.

The Section is expected to be further involved in the 2nd Regional Meeting on Strategies for the Development of Public Library Services in Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in Brazil, 1984. Ulla Simons, Denmark, participated in the 1st Regional Meeting as the Section's representative, Else Granheim was invited as president of IFLA. The organizers of the 2nd meeting will consult the SC as soon as funding is secured.

Section on School Libraries: Annual Report, Munich 1983

Introduction

The Section first appeared at the IFLA Congress in 1977, after several years of planning and preparation. It is now 6 years old and has almost 100 member institutions from 50 countries. Under the previous Chairman and her committee, the Section developed projects, produced publications and participated in meetings, all of which have made it strong and increasingly influential in school librarianship around the world.

Libraries in a technological World

The theme for the IFLA Congress 1983 is represented by two speakers chosen by the Section for presentation at our joint open meeting with the Audiovisual Round Table and the Children's Libraries Section. Professor Andreas Papendieck of Fachhocschule fur Bibliothekswesen Stuttgart has submitted a paper on New environment of learning by school library media centers. Professor Papendieck is chairman of the Commission of School Librarians. Mrs. Jean Beck from the UK, one of a team of regional trainers for the Government Miroelectronics Education Programme, has submitted a paper on Information Technology for Schoolchildren. These are but two examples of how school libraries in many countries are responding to technological change by helping to educate young people in the knowledge and skills required for life in the future.

Educating School Librarians

A Working Group, formed in 1982, is collecting details of education and training for school librarianship world-wide. There are many different types of librarian (teachers with library responsibilities; professional librarians), and of training (nothing, a few days or months, three and four year degree courses, postgraduate diplomas, Master's degree programmes), and of curricula. The report should provide a wide-ranging and comprehensive picture of minimum and maximum preparatory training, with recommendations based on this practise, for educators, trainers and policy-makers.

The Chairman of the Group is committee member Sigrun Hannesdottir, whose report 'Education of school librarians: some alternatives' was recently published in English by Saur as IFLA Publication number 22.

Other activities

The Section's work is reported in the Committee Minutes and in Newsletter 6. The Committee continues to translate the Medium Term Programme into practical action, and to implement the spirit and ideals of UBC and UAP through project proposals submitted to the Professional Board. Universal access to information, and the skills which this demands, are at the heart of our aims and activities - always.

AI
6.83

IFLA ROUND TABLE ON AV MEDIA: Annual Report 1982-83

Membership: Mrs. A.m. Kylberg, Chairman (Sweden)
Miss C.F. Pinion, Secretary/Treasurer (UK)
Mr. H. Ernestus (FBR)
Mrs. A. Johansen (Denmark)
Mr. P. McNally (Australia)
Mrs. L. Rudenko (USSR)

1. Meetings

Montreal 1982. Although only the Secretary was able to attend the Montreal Congress, the full programme took place. The first publication of the series "AV in Action" was announced and the Basic Statement on the Provision of AV Materials in Public Libraries was delivered. There were two joint meetings, one with the Round Table of Libraries for the Blind and the other with the Art Libraries Section. A visit to the National Film Board of Canada was organised. Discussion took place on the Status of the Round Table and further suggestions regarding its interdivisional role were made.

London, March 1983. Mrs. Kylberg, Mrs. Johansen and Miss Pinion met for the Interim meeting and to discuss future work. A discussion paper on UAP had been prepared by the Secretary and Mr. Stephen Vickers from the UAP office attended to talk about the possibilities for further effort in this direction. Mr. Spruit visited the meeting, to discuss publications and to report on financial aspects.

Munich 1983. In line with the new Congress procedure, the Round Table has arranged only one joint meeting, this time with the School Libraries Section and the Children's Libraries Section. The Business Meeting will include a paper by Paul McNally (Australia) on the Australian AV scene and current problems of provision. It is hoped to organise visits to local libraries which have considerable AV provision.

2. "AV in Action" series

A further two publications have been issued during the year. They can be purchased from NBLC, PO Box 93054,2509AB The Hague, The Netherlands.
No. 1. AV and the disabled. $5. (issued last year)
No. 2. AV media and the Dutch Public Library. $5.
No. 3. Handling, storage and preservation of AV materials. $2.50.

The next publication in the series will be on centralised services, with contributions from Holland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany.

3. Status

A document was prepared and submitted to the Professional Board immediately after Montreal, outlining the arguments for establishing an interdivisional role. Eventually, a reply was received to the effect that such a move would be establishing a precedent and therefore could not be approved. The Professional Board proposed a move to the Management and Technology Division. The Round Table is very concerned at this result and will seek further dialogue with the Professional Board via the Co-ordinating Board.

Catherine F. Pinion,
Secretary,
Central Library,
Surrey Street,
Sheffield S1 1XZ
U.K.

June 1983

Division of Libraries serving the general Public.

Report: Round Table mobile Libraries Year: 1982/1983

Reporter: Horst Buschendorf, F.R.G., chairman

The members of the Round Table mobile Libraries have presented the drafts of the standards for mobile libraries which they had decided to discuss about during IFLA-Congress in Leipzig 1981 in time. At the meeting of the Round Table in Helsinki at the end of May these drafts were discussed and brought to the final version.
The members and their theme are:
Irmeli holmberg, Finland: Organisation and possibilities of operating field.
Ria de Waart-Vesseur, Holland: Collection.
Horst Buschendorf, F.R.G.: Construction.
Peter Heise, Denmark: Interior.
André Thill, France: Garages, Magazines and Working Rooms.
These drafts will be distributed under interested colleagues in English and German language at IFLA-Conference in Munich in August this year. They shall be published as a help for those colleagues all over the world who intend to build and to use a mobile library.
The second point of the meeting in Helsinki was the discussion about the final programme of the Round Table in Munich 1983.
On Tuesday August 23rd there are the two open meetings of the R.T. beginning with a lecture about mobile library services in the F.R.G. given by the chairman Horst Buschendorf"Development, function and organisation of mobile library services in the F.R.G." After this the drafts for standards are presented, both with a discussion.
All interested collaegues can watch a sound-picture-show about mobile library services in the F.R.G. and can visit an exhibition about this theme.
At the end of these meetings all listeners will visit the exhibition of different bookmobiles which are parked this day in front of the University in the Geschwister-Scholl-Rondell. There will be the opportunity for talking about main points and problems of this service.
Press, broadcasting and television will especially pay attention to this exhibition.
During the business meeting of the R.T. a new chairman will be chosen and the programme for the next year will be drafted.
An exhibition of material for and about mobile library services from all over the world can be inspected all the days.

MICROFILMED FROM
BEST AVAILABLE COPY

International Federation
of Library Associations and Institutions
Fédération Internationale des
Associations de Bibliothécaires et des Bibliothèques
Internationaler Verband
der bibliothekarischen Vereine und Institutionen
Международная Федерация
Библиотечных Ассоциаций и Учреждений

IFLA

Round Table of National Centres
for Library Services

secretariat:
NBLC
P.O.B. 930 1
2509 AB THE HAGUE
The Netherlands

Written report on ROTNAC's activities

- ROTNAC had 4 meetings in Montréal, Canada
  1. Evaluation of the travelling seminar for librarians from developing countries (held in 1981)
  2. Open meeting, including a meeting with the Working Group Library Services to Ethnic and Linguistic Minorities and a speech on Centrale Services in Canada by Mr. Alain Boucher
  3. Joint meeting with the Section on School-libraries
  4. Closed business-meeting

- In December Newsletter 2 was published. It contained the papers from the meetings at the Conference

- In January 1983 ROTNAC registrated a new member:
  Bibliotheksinstitut (Prof. G. Beyersdorff) in Berlin, Germany

- On 10th and 11th May ROTNAC held its half-yearly meeting in London on invitation of the London Home and Counties Branch of the Library Association. During the meeting preparations were made for the IFLA Conference in Munich.

- Before the Confernce in Munich, Newsletter 1, 1983 will be published.
  Main items will be: 1. Literature for immigrants
  2. Automated projects.

Yolanda de Niet

IFLA 1983

TO BE ADDED TO 93 - GENPU - 1 - E

INTAMEL - Report 1982 - 1983

INTAMEL, a platform for professional communication and information for librarians of cities with 400.000 or more inhabitants, organises yearly conferences where exchange of experience and ideas takes place on the main problems of the larger library systems and their activities.
The 1982-conference has taken place in Mexico City. The professional meetings were devoted to subjects of current interest for the library development in Mexico: "the public library in large metropolitan cities and the relationship to schools", and "the structure of metropolitan library systems". They were attended by many local and regional librarians from Mexico.
During a meeting within the IFLA conference in Montreal, two weeks later, Mr. Parkhill, former librarian of Toronto, gave information on the subject departmentalisation in Canadian libraries, as a supplement to the discussion of this theme during the INTAMEL meeting in Budapest, 1981.
Another activity of INTAMEL is the publication of comparative statistics of the metropolitan libraries every year. "Metropolitan libraries on their way into the eighties" is the title of a Festschrift for Dr. Jürgen Eyssen, former president of INTAMEL, in which many librarians from metropolitan cities gave valuable contributions on different subjects.
One of the subjects that has been the main topic of the INTAMEL conference just finished in Berlin, 15 - 19 August 1983, was "Strategy for wintering; how to survive in a climate of continuous budget-cuts". It has been introduced by Mr. Cedergren from Göteborg and Dr. Andrae from Hamburg.
No doubt further progress of automation in metropolitan library systems will be one of the answers. Therefor provision of on-line information and automation of one of the most time consuming devices in libraries, the catalogue, are included for the coming years in the medium term program.

P.J. van Swigchem

For internal use only:

to be brought to meeting no:

.....85.....

Remarks: S1

to be presented orally ☒

for distribution ☐